

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

FLAG PROTECTION AMENDMENT

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Flag Protection Amendment, introduced by Congressman DUKE CUNNINGHAM (R-CA) and Congressman JOHN MURTHA (D-PA). This bill will ensure that our flag receives the utmost respect and Constitutional protection it deserves.

I strongly believe flag desecration is a slap in the face to all those who fought and died for our freedom. This symbol is more than a simple matter of pride, the flag binds us together as a nation. We pledge our allegiance to it, many people are buried with the flag draping their casket, the least we can do is protect it.

According to a national survey conducted by the Gallup Organization, three out of four Americans favor passage of the Flag Protection Amendment. We owe the passage of this Amendment to every American. What better way to do the business of the people, than to protect our symbol of national unity.

Mr. Speaker, this bipartisan Amendment is highly valued by a clear majority of Americans. Forty-nine states have petitioned Congress for a Flag Protection Amendment. The fact is Americans want our flag protected.

The American flag is a national treasure. It is the ultimate symbol of freedom, equal opportunity and religious tolerance. Amending our Constitution to protect the flag is a necessity.

TRIBUTE TO THE LOIL ELLISON, JR. FAMILY

HON. JULIAN C. DIXON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition, defines family as "a group of persons of common ancestry; a people or group of peoples regarded as deriving from a common stock." I am proud today to recognize a group of individuals who embody, in a very special manner, the principles inherent in Webster's definition of family. The extended family of my friend Loil Ellison, Jr. traces its history back nearly 174 years and counts amongst its members more than 350 descendants of George Brown and Josephine Britton Brown.

It is especially fitting that this tribute to the Ellison, Brown, Kyle, Brawley, Baker, Wright, Watson, Boyd, Callaghan, Hughes, and Hubbard families comes during the month of February, that time of the year traditionally set aside when Americans honor the rich contributions made to this country by distinguished African Americans. It is a proud time for our nation and although we traditionally reserve the

accolades for those African Americans who have gained public distinction and acclaim, I would like to pause today to honor this wonderful family for its greatness as a family, one that is richly steeped in tradition and which defines, better than most, the true meaning of family.

Loil, who has lived in Los Angeles since 1987 where he is one of the top car salesmen in the industry for Mike Miller Toyota, has shared with me an authoritative and comprehensive manuscript compiled by his niece and president of the Brown Family Reunion, Marion Joann Thomas. In it, Marion has chronicled the history of the Brown family beginning with the births of great, great, great, great-grandparents George, born in May 1839, and Josephine, born in February 1840. So impressive is From Generation to Generation, 1825-1998 The Legacy of George Brown and Josephine Britton that a copy of the document is catalogued in the Institute of Texas Cultures Library and the Carver Library in San Antonio, Texas. A copy is also on record with the Historical Society of Caldwell County Library in Luling, Texas.

Loil Ellison, Jr.'s extended family come from all over the United States. Last summer, on July 17, 1998, the family held its annual reunion, which drew more than 350 family members. For three days, family members participated in a range of activities celebrating their rich heritage. They held a reception and dinner dance, a family picnic, and joined in a family worship service held at Trinity Baptist Church. What a glorious sight it must have been to witness the group, 350 plus strong, marching into the church as they prepared to give thanks for the spiritual blessings and legacies bestowed by their ancestors George and Josephine.

Mr. Speaker, the history of George Brown and Josephine Britton Brown, as told through the eyes of Marion Joann Thomas, is a poignant and inspirational story of love of family. It is a rich narrative of a people filled with hope and a determined spirit to achieve as a legacy to their ancestors George and Josephine Britton Brown. I commend Loil and his niece, Marion, for sharing their history with me and convey my wishes that their future will be as rich as their past.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL TRIO DAY

HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring my colleagues' attention the celebration of National TRIO Day. National TRIO Day was designated by concurrent resolution on February 24, 1986 by the 99th Congress. National TRIO Day is celebrated on the last Saturday of February each year as a day of recognition for the Federal TRIO Program.

The TRIO programs are Upward Bound, Upward Bound Math/Science, Veterans Upward Bound, Talent Search, Student Support Services, Educational Opportunity Centers and the Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program. These programs, established over the past 30 years, provide services to low-income and potential first generation college students and help them overcome class, social, cultural and physical barriers to higher education.

Currently 2,000 colleges, universities and community agencies throughout our nation sponsor TRIO programs. Over 780,000 middle school and high school students and adults benefit from their services. Most of these students represent the highest aspirations and best hope for the American dream. By lifting these students out of poverty, the nation is lifted to new heights.

There are 15 TRIO programs in my State which serve 6,000 aspiring students and adults annually. I know these programs work. For example, last year I met Mark Crosby, a First Vice-President for Personnel for one of Maine's most successful and fastest-growing employers, MBNA America Bank. Mark was a student in the University of Maine Upward Bound Program which he credits for his success in completing high school, college and graduate school. As he told me, "I went to college. My brother, who did not go to Upward Bound, went to jail".

TRIO graduates can be found in every occupation; doctor, lawyer, astronaut, television reporter, actor, professional athlete, state senator and Member of Congress. In fact, some of our colleagues today are graduates of TRIO programs. The TRIO programs are a cost-effective investment in our nation's future. They help to ensure that no child will be left behind, his or her aspirations unrealized.

In closing, I would like to encourage my colleagues to visit the TRIO Programs in their districts and learn for themselves how valuable these programs are to our nation. I also want to say a warm hello to all of the Maine students currently participating in TRIO programs and to remind them to keep reaching for their dreams.

KATE MULLAY—350 EIGHTH STREET, TROY, NY

HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, John F. Kennedy once said: "A nation reveals itself not only by the men it produces, but by the men it honors, the men it remembers."

Today I honor the life and work of a great woman.

Down the hall, in the Rotunda of this magnificent building—an incredible tribute to democracy—there is a statue of three great women, all American pioneers. Most historians

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

will agree that Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, and Lucretia Mott—because of their lifelong struggle for equality—deserve that place of honor, in our Rotunda, with the statues of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Andrew Jackson and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; where John Kennedy, Abraham Lincoln and the Unknown Soldiers were laid in State.

I urge my colleagues, and all my fellow Americans, to help me honor another pioneering woman who lived at the same time as these three women suffragists.

Mr. Speaker, this woman also was a leader in the struggle for equality. She was an Irish immigrant who toiled as a laundress for the collar and cuff industry in the late 19th century.

Mr. Speaker, this woman was 19 years old when she formed the first female labor union in the country, the Collar Laundry Union and successfully led a strike of over 200 laundresses. As a result, the union won wage increases of 25%.

Mr. Speaker, this woman helped organize workers around the country and helped unions outside of the laundry industry. She became the first female ever appointed to a national labor office when she was appointed Assistant Secretary of the then-National Labor Union.

Mr. Speaker, this woman's name was Kate Mullany and she lived in Troy, New York.

Kate Mullany's home, located at 350 Eighth Street in Troy, is the last surviving structure associated with her life and work.

While her years of work and efforts on behalf of American workers might merit her inclusion in the Rotunda of this Capitol, the least we should do is preserve her house and use it as an educational tool to tell the story of her life and the development of the American labor movement—which has strong roots in the Capital Region of New York State.

That is why I have introduced H.R. 641, the "Kate Mullany National Historic Site Act", which would make the house a unit of the National Park Service.

Last year, Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt designated the Mullany House as a National Historic Landmark and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton included the house as a stop on her "Save America's Treasures" tour. I appreciate their involvement and their support.

Mr. Speaker, for too long, important stories and legacies left by people who were the fabric of American life—those who worked for a living—have been overlooked. America was built on the backs of laborers and they deserve recognition.

The National Labor Theme Study Act, which I wrote, the Congress passed, and the President signed in 1991, sought to correct this wrong and has identified the Kate Mullany House as a prominent site worth preserving to tell the story of American laborers and the American labor movement.

I ask that my colleagues in the House support H.R. 641. This is important legislation which would properly honor and remember Kate Mullany's work and pay tribute to the significant contributions made by her and her fellow laborers to the history of this great nation.

Mr. Speaker, we are all active participants in telling the history of America. The responsibility of telling the stories of heroes like Kate Mullany is on our shoulders.

TRIBUTE TO FIGURE SKATING ATHLETES

HON. STEVEN KUYKENDALL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Mr. KUYKENDALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to all of the outstanding figure skating athletes who participated in the 1999 State Farm United States Figure Skating Championship, held in Salt Lake City, Utah on February 13, 1999. I particularly wish to recognize the athletic achievement of several of my young constituents.

Ms. Michelle Kwan of Torrance, claimed her third National title at the U.S. State Farm Figure Skating Championship. Just 18 years of age, Ms. Kwan has already had an illustrious career, setting the bar high for all athletes following in her footsteps. Ms. Kwan's career accomplishments include winning the world championship twice, and earning a silver medal from the 1998 Olympics. Ms. Kwan will now lead the United States team that will compete in the World Championship in Helsinki, Finland, March 21–28. I admire Ms. Kwan's commitment and desire to compete as an amateur. I wish her luck in obtaining the one achievement that has been elusive thus far, winning the Olympic gold medal.

Ms. Angela Nikodinov of San Pedro, claimed the bronze medal in the championship and will be a proud member of the United States World Team for the first time this year. Currently, Angela is 18 years of age and attends Monte Vista High School.

Ms. Amber Corwin, at age 21, finished seventh in the overall senior ladies competition and is originally from Hermosa Beach. She is currently a student at California State University, Long Beach, where she is majoring in communications.

Mr. Trifun Zivanovic of Los Angeles, finished second in the overall men's competition. He is a graduate of Beverly Hills High School in 1994 and at age 24, currently enjoys teaching youngsters the art of figure skating. Mr. Zivanovic will be traveling to Halifax, Canada later this month for the Four Continents Championships and then to Helsinki, Finland for the World Championship in March.

Mr. Johnnie Stiegler and Ms. Tiffany Stiegler of Manhattan Beach, finished fourth in the U.S. State Farm Figure Skating Championship pairs competition. This was their first senior competition. This brother and sister duo attends Rim High School. Tiffany and Johnnie, 15 and 16 respectively, have a bright future in figure skating.

It is with great honor that I recognize these athletes. Their commitment, dedication, determination, and discipline to excel in figure skating should be admired by all. I wish all of them well and look forward to cheering for them in all their future endeavors!

TRIBUTE TO JUSTICE BERNARD S. JEFFERSON

HON. JULIAN C. DIXON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, it is a special honor to pay tribute today to retired California

Court of Appeal Justice Bernard S. Jefferson, who after a celebrated career spanning more than half a century, will be honored on March 25, 1999, at a dinner in his honor at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, California. The dinner is being hosted by the faculty and board of the University of West Los Angeles. One of the most distinguished and acclaimed jurist in the nation, it is a particular pleasure to publicly commend Justice Jefferson for his contributions to the court, to the University of West Los Angeles, and to the citizens of the great state of California and the nation.

Born July 29, 1910, in Coffeeville, Mississippi, Justice Jefferson graduated Phi Beta Kappa from UCLA in 1931. He received his law degree Cum Laude from Harvard Law School in 1934, and his S.J.D. from Harvard in 1943. Following his graduation, Justice Jefferson served for several years as a Professor of Law at Howard University. He served two years as an Assistant General Counsel in the Office of Price Administration, and prior to his appointment to the bench, spent ten years in private practice, where he worked alongside such legendary legal scholars as the late Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall on several, significant civil rights cases.

In 1959, then-California Governor Edmond G. Brown, Sr. appointed Bernard to the Municipal Court. One year later, he was elevated to the Los Angeles Superior Court, and in 1975 was elevated to the Second District Court of Appeal, Division One. He became the Presiding Justice of Division One in 1980. During his long and distinguished career, he served a short time as a pro tem appointee on the California Supreme Court, and authored the California judiciary's best known and most authoritative and frequently cited evidence book, "The California Evidence Benchbook." Known throughout the California judicial system as the "Bible" of evidence for judges, the "Benchbook" has been cited in nearly 300 appellate cases.

A judge's judge, and an individual of impeccable integrity and character, Justice Jefferson is an erudite and brilliant jurist whose legacy to the court remains legend throughout California courtrooms today.

When Justice Jefferson retired from the court in 1980, he began still another career as the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs for the University of West Los Angeles. Unable to stay away from the classroom, he also taught Evidence and Criminal Procedure. He was selected as President of the institution in 1982 and retired in 1994; he remains President Emeritus of the University.

In addition to his many contributions to the court, Justice Jefferson is also a founder of the California Judges College which trains newly appointed judges. He has published numerous articles for myriad legal journals, including the prestigious Harvard Law Review and the Columbia Law Review, as well as the Boston University Law Review. He has been recognized with innumerable awards and accolades for his extraordinary contributions to the legal profession, and is the recipient of the Appellate Justice of the Year award, presented to him in 1977 by the Los Angeles Lawyers Club.

Mr. Speaker, paraphrasing an old Chinese proverb, "one generation plants the trees; another sits in their shade. Here's to you, [Justice Bernard Jefferson,] for planting those

trees." For nearly six decades, Justice Jefferson has dedicated himself to planting and nurturing the tree of excellence. Excellence as a student, excellence as an attorney, excellence as a jurist, and excellence as a university professor and administrator. He has helped to shape some of the finest legal minds practicing law today. His legacy is secure for the ages. He is revered by his peers, respected by his students, and held in the highest esteem by those of us who have been witness to a career that parallels few in the annals of the judiciary. I am proud to know him and I deem it a high honor to have this opportunity to publicly thank him on behalf of this nation for his legendary and distinguished contributions to the system of jurisprudence.

MR. BEREUTER GIVES SPEECH BEFORE THE HERITAGE FOUNDATION

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with my colleagues a thoughtful speech given before the Heritage Foundation by my distinguished colleague, Mr. BEREUTER of Nebraska, on U.S. policy toward Asia.

As Chairman of the Asia and Pacific Subcommittee, on which I am honored to serve, DOUG BEREUTER has been a leader in shaping U.S. policy toward this critical region. Mr. BEREUTER's views, as expressed here, are a significant contribution to our understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing our country in Asia. I encourage my colleagues to review this important speech.

Mr. Speaker, I submit the full text of Mr. BEREUTER's address before the Heritage Foundation's Asia Roundtable to be inserted at this point in the RECORD.

REMARKS DELIVERED AT THE HERITAGE FOUNDATION, THE HONORABLE DOUG BEREUTER, CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON ASIA AND THE PACIFIC, FEBRUARY 9, 1999

I. INTRODUCTION

I am honored to be invited back, for a fifth year, to participate in the Asia Roundtable sponsored by the Heritage Foundation, and to share my Congressional perspective on U.S. foreign policy objectives in Asia. Seeing many familiar faces here today, I am encouraged that so many "old hands" (many of them young)—individuals with wide-ranging experience and expertise—remain committed to studying Asian affairs. No region is more dynamic, or more crucial to the future of America, as we stand on the threshold of the 21st century.

In my role as Chairman of the Asia and Pacific Subcommittee, a position which I have held since January 1995, I have found that your questions and related comments have been helpful in offering some different issues, and I hope that today's session will also have that benefit. I will keep my remarks fairly brief to afford maximum time for dialogue. Thus, I propose:

First, to very briefly reiterate the set of principles that have guided my approach to the Asia-Pacific region.

Second, to highlight key challenges that we face when viewing the Asian landscape through the larger prism of U.S. "grand strategy"—even if it isn't clear that our government has one.

Third, to offer my thoughts on appropriate Congressional responses to achieve our security objectives in Asia.

II. PRINCIPLES TO GUIDE FOREIGN POLICY

Soon after I assumed Chairmanship of the Asia and Pacific Subcommittee, I established a set of principles to guide goals and initiatives regarding Asia. I believe these principles remain valid today. These include:

first, Maintaining regional stability and security—particularly with respect to potential flashpoints on the Korean peninsula, the Asian subcontinent, and Taiwan—by sustaining our regional security commitments. The presence of American forces strategically forward-positioned in Asia promotes stability, deters aggression and the rise of hegemonic forces, and ensures our strategic agility—the ability to rapidly and flexibly respond to crises. Our forces must remain engaged in Asia to bolster alliances and friendships, build new bonds of trust, and strengthen the joint commitment of the U.S. and regional nations to peace and stability. An increasingly important aspect of the U.S. security responsibility concerns the proliferation and export of weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles. Given recent events on the Korean Peninsula, this priority has become increasingly important.

the second principle, Opening and expanding Asian markets, and leading systemic and structural reforms that contribute to long-term Asian economic health and prosperity. Asia's recent financial crisis underscores the need for this dual-track approach. We have engaged economically, for example, by applying public and private resources to our financial and commercial relationships in Asia, and by implementing business strategies that expand our trade and marketing potential. However, we also should provide more leadership in a drive for reforming the economic architecture in Asia. This includes direct assistance in the form of counsel and targeted, limited aid to beleaguered nations, and insistence on appropriate support from multilateral organizations, such as the IMF, and international fora. This integrated approach should help put Asian nations back on their feet and keep them on the path to the robust growth needed for their, and global, economic health.

the third principle, Promoting democracy & Protecting human rights. We cannot neglect our historic commitment to the fundamental principles of democracy, pluralism, and respect for human rights. Any Congressional policy based strictly on realpolitik and devoid of moral substance will lose the support of the American people.

In these three areas, then, Congress must seek and seize the initiative so that we can now, and amid the uncertainties of the new millennium, shape, prepare effectively for, and respond appropriately to, the challenges and opportunities in Asia.

Now, secondly, to move to the challenges, I start with . . .

III. DEFENSE ISSUES

A more detailed look at the region shows that the post-Cold War period has not ended threats to a peaceful, stable Asia. Threats to U.S. vital interests abound. Relatedly, I believe that maintaining our 100,000 forward-deployed troops is the responsible, prudent course of action now more than ever. That force is a cornerstone of our security strategy and has both symbolic and real value to our allies, and it should to us as well. It represents our tangible commitment to the region—our sacrifice for the common good that deters aggression and defends U.S. and allied interests in crisis or conflict. The 1998 Defense Authorization Bill included language, which I authored, reaffirmed both Congressional support for the 100,000 troop level, and

explains why this troop commitment is crucial to peace and security in Asia. Indeed, I believe the presence of forward-based U.S. troops is welcomed by everyone in the region . . . with the notable exception of North Korea.

As to North Korea, I remain convinced, as I was in 1995, that there is no more volatile and dangerous spot in Asia, and perhaps the world, than North Korea. The situation on the Korean Peninsula currently is fragile. As you know, the North maintains a huge, standing, million-man army, the bulk of which is forward-deployed within 75 miles of the DMZ. Its nuclear and ballistic missile capabilities may threaten South Korea and Japan and, as demonstrated by Pyongyang's August '98 missile test, they potentially threaten even American soil—yes, the 48 states too. This test launch, coupled with uncertainty over the North's adherence to the 1994 nuclear framework agreement (generated by its continuing refusal to permit U.S. access to a suspected nuclear-related underground facility at Kumchang-ni) has renewed grave questions about Pyongyang's military intentions.

The North should realize, but may not, that it now stands at a crossroads and must choose whether to continue its march toward economic and social collapse or to embrace America's exchange of food aid, heavy fuel, and assistance in developing safe nuclear energy for a verifiable commitment that it has not continued—and will not continue—its nuclear weapons program. The Administration's high risk bargaining tactics on this issue require careful oversight; much hangs in the balance—potential war or peace on the Peninsula, large-scale proliferation or its containment. Ultimately, the longer term balance of power and regional stability is at risk. I referred to the Administration's high risk bargaining tactics because the questions we all must ask are:

What is the Administration's strategy with regard to North Korea? Why is there no linkage among the Administration's individual initiatives to stem the North's ballistic missile proliferation, to halt its nuclear program, and to forge any peace settlement? Have we substituted individual tactical maneuvers for an overarching strategy, a set of disjointed processes for an integrated policy and real progress?

The implications of North Korea's test launch of a three-stage ballistic missile reach far beyond the Peninsula. Tokyo, recognizing the implicit threat, has appeared increasingly receptive to overtures to work with the U.S. to develop a regional missile defense network. Prime Minister Obuchi's hand also has been strengthened in gaining Diet approval for the revised defense guidelines. Once ratified, these guidelines will permit Japan to provide broader and more flexibility non-combat logistical support to U.S. forces in a regional contingency.

As a nuclear weapons state, a leading regional military power, and a global player with a permanent U.N. Security Council seat, China, too, has a crucial role in building lasting security in the Asia region. Thus, another key security objective in Asia must be to build a firm foundation for a long-term relationship with China based on comprehensive engagement. Clearly, divergent and sometimes conflicting policies on a variety of issues complicate relations. Continuing concerns regarding China's acquisition and possible proliferation of sophisticated technology with military applications poses challenges to improving relations. As you may know, I served recently on the Congressional Select Committee charged with investigating Chinese acquisition of sensitive U.S. military technologies. Our findings, which I will broadly review with you when I turn to

proliferation challenges, almost certainly will strain U.S./China relations over the near-term once the maximum amount of the report is released.

Another weighty U.S. security objective in Asia is to contain the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in South Asia. Indian's and Pakistan's recent nuclear tests, and their continued development of ballistic missiles, have fundamentally changed the strategic balance and increased the risk of nuclear exchange. As you know, the U.S. imposed mandatory unilateral sanctions on these countries following their tests. Major elements of these sanctions have subsequently been waived. We need to specifically examine whether to continue the President's waiver on Arms Export Control Administration (AECA) economic sanctions, which were based on a number of conditions, including both countries signing the CTBT, halting nuclear testing, and ceasing deployment and testing of missiles and nuclear weapons. It is to say the least, unclear whether those conditions will be met.

I have included proliferation issues in a number of my subcommittee's past hearings and, during the 106th Congress, I anticipate re-examining some of these concerns and Administration responses. Certainly we will review Presidential certifications on the North's nuclear program as required by the last Congress, and their impact on the KEDO light water reactor project under the Nuclear Framework agreement.

It also is clear that Congress will carefully review U.S. export and security policies dealing with sensitive military-related technologies. As I mentioned earlier, I serve on the House Select Committee on U.S. National Security and Military/Commercial Concerns with the People's Republic of China, which produced what is commonly referred to as the Cox Report. While the findings of the Select Committee remain highly classified, I can say that we found that the transfer of sensitive U.S. technology to China extends beyond the widely publicized Hughes Electronics and Loral cases, to grave and extraordinary losses and severe damage to America's national security through Chinese espionage because of lax security measures. At this point, I cannot provide details as the report is undergoing declassification review. Suffice it to say at this time, however, that the United States must thoroughly, dramatically, and energetically revise its security procedures—no failures to follow-through this time and no half-way, half-hearted efforts are acceptable.

IV. ECONOMIC ISSUES

Now let's look at Asia's economic security challenges.

Over the course of the financial crisis, five Asian economies have contracted by at least 6 percent: Thailand, South Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Hong Kong. During a recent visit to Asia, I heard leading Hong Kong business-men, who once were supremely confident of Hong Kong's continued prosperity, now admit they are in a depression—no, I didn't say recession. I also had the opportunity to visit Indonesia, and witness firsthand the very real difficulties that important nation faces in pursuing economic recovery. Other nations are in recession or close to it. I believe the U.S. now has a more palpable respect for the possibility of economic undertow because of the Asian crisis. We were "strategically surprised," to borrow a military analogy, and "strategic surprise" frequently results in tremendous confusion and very bad results. We can't afford to have this happen in the global economy.

We need to bolster our economic "defenses" now by expanding private and public U.S. economic engagement and leadership in

the region, and by paying closer attention to "indications and warning" of financial instability. In retrospect, these signs were evident as the crisis built—and even before that if you look at the architectural problems that drove it—but their potential individual and cumulative impact clearly were insufficiently addressed.

U.S. economic growth of about 2-3 percent in 1999 has been widely projected—down from about 4 percent 1998 and attributable, in large measure, to the economic problems ignited in Asia. In late '98 the strong U.S. economy was, overall, able to more than compensate for the slump in Asian and other markets. Yet the Asian and other global impacts still are not all played out, and more Asia tides may still await us. To date, the rising U.S. trade deficit, largely resulting from the sizable fall in exports to Asia, has been offset in significant part by capital inflows seeking safe harbor in America and by the Federal Reserve three times lowering interest rates. Nonetheless, the impact of the Asian crisis has been weighty and, as I said, it's certainly not over: Asia's recession has cost U.S. industry \$30B in lost exports and resulted in manufacturing lay-offs and shrinking farm income. In addition, despite large IMF bailouts to some Asian nations, continuing financial setbacks in the region are shockingly projected to increase the 1999 U.S. trade deficit another \$50-60B deep because of Tokyo's role as the world's second largest economy and a U.S. ally. Japan has been America's largest overseas market for agricultural products. Japan has ranked as the third largest, single-market country for U.S. exports; it also has been the second largest supplier of U.S. imports.

Japan's economy has been anemic, and often in decline, for most of the past seven years, and it is now in recession, with nothing encouraging in sight. Recent trends indicate that, barring major shifts in government policies and global economic conditions, Japan's economic growth will be sluggish for at least the near-term. Problematically, the U.S. trade deficit with Japan in fall '98 was \$58.2B and nearing its all-time high of \$65.7B, which was reached in 1994. Large trade deficits will increase political calls for protectionism. Indeed, we have seen the first shots over the bow on this subjects already: The Administration has threatened to file a suit under Section 301 of US trade law against Tokyo unless its steel imports show substantial declines.

Politically, that instinct is hard to resist, but such a response has adverse consequences, forcing Americans to pay more for products and lowering their standard of living. Protectionism also can seriously damage Asian economic recovery efforts, which will pose longer-term risks for U.S. products, services, jobs, and industry. The trick is finding the line between protectionism and appropriate leverage to demand a fair shake in foreign markets.

Despite Japan's continuing economic problems, it admittedly has provided financial assistance, structural adjustment loans, and export/import credits to the IMF countries to help contain the financial crisis. Such generosity is to Tokyo's credit, but it is an adequate alternative to restoring a strong Japanese economy. Underlying Japan's market access problems and low productivity in some economic sectors are an abundance of rigid government regulations. While recent governments have promised to undertake deregulation, Tokyo still appears to be ill-prepared to make fundamental changes.

Although I have viewed Japan as the economic engine that could pull East Asia back to economic recovery, provide insurance against a worldwide recession and reinforce regional stability and security, this prospect

is dimming. Last year, I introduced H.Res. 392, which was passed, calling on Japan to more effectively address its internal economic and financial difficulties, and to open its markets by eliminating regulatory, trade, and investment barriers. Japan must act now to stimulate its fiscal economy and make a decisive break with the regulatory webs and closed markets that slow growth. If Japanese markets aren't open—or opened—Asian countries will rely that much more on U.S. markets for their exports, American exports to Asia will decline, our trade deficits will be pushed even higher, and calls for protectionism will escalate.

U.S.-China Trade is part of our larger comprehensive engagement policy with that nation and reinforces our economic security objectives in Asia at large. The 106th Congress, like those previously, probably may once again, after heated debate, extend normal trade relations status to China; however, the renewal process likely will trigger consideration of other trade-related issues. These may include conditioning China's entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO), possibly linking WTO access with permanent NTR status, and taking a variety of initiatives to reverse the increasing U.S.-China trade deficit. Incredibly, WTO negotiations with China are in their 13th year; however, China's formal trade barriers remain high, and some very recently have been placed even higher. Key service sectors, such as distribution, finance, and telecommunications—the infrastructure of a 21st century economy—remain closed. Moreover, the rule of law, which permits enterprises to grow and flourish, remains severely underdeveloped. The Administration still has no effective plan to induce China to make the changes and commitments necessary for WTO eligibility despite our phenomenal trade deficit with that country, which grows by \$1B per week! I am convinced that the U.S. must use, in effect, a "carrot and stick" approach to push China on WTO membership. The "carrot" is permanent NTR; the "stick" is snap-back tariffs. This year, I plan to more energetically push the Bereuter-Ewing-Pickering legislation—H.R. 1712: The China Market Access and Export Opportunities Act. It offers a strategic plan that includes snap-back tariffs to compel Beijing to join the WTO. Equally important, unlike repealing NTR, my approach does not invoke the impossible, severe, wide-ranging set of sanctions that would adversely impact American jobs and industry. Neither does it ease, as China has urged, WTO accession restrictions, which could seriously undermine support for free trade. Now to the final category of challenges for the U.S. in the region:

V. HUMAN RIGHTS & DEMOCRACY

There can be no serious discussion of U.S. policy toward Asia—or of challenges and opportunities in that region—without addressing U.S. democracy and human rights objectives. As you all know, last year was the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In looking back at that half century, an impressive body of international law has been enacted, and the ranks of committed individuals, organizations, and countries have swelled as has their power to command world attention in promoting and protecting the dignity and freedom of all people.

It should be noted that in 1998, for example, Beijing signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. In 1998, the U.N. Human Rights Commission and 36 Asian-Pacific nations—representing about one-half the world's people—also signed in 1998 the framework for an agreement on technical cooperation in human rights,

which commits them to work together to strengthen national human rights strategies, plans, institutions, and education. Strides have been made, but we must do more to translate the legal instruments—the words—that guarantee human rights into actions that transform the daily lives of those citizenries that still live under oppression.

Competing ideologies on the role of democracy versus authoritarian rule in building Asian stability and economic prosperity have impaired the strengthening of democratic institutions and individual freedoms. The Asian economic crisis brought simmering political tensions to a boil, and amplified regional—indeed, worldwide—calls for government accountability and profound social and political change. If equitable recovery measures are not adopted in 1999, the cycles of violence witnessed last year, and for much of history, well may be repeated.

Nowhere is that more true than in Indonesia. The widespread protests that brought an end to President Suharto's regime have not abated. President Habibie has lifted some restrictions on freedom of expression and political parties, but sources of political, ethnic, and economic unrest continue to abound. The June '99 parliamentary election process is a key test for democracy and government legitimacy. With political parties blossoming and competing for seats in what hopefully will be the first real election in over three decades, the stakes are very high. Moreover, another important watershed event may be on the horizon: Recently, the Indonesian government announced that it may be willing to consider East Timor's autonomy, perhaps even independence if the East Timorese deem the autonomy plan unacceptable. The jailed rebel leader, Xanana Gusmao, who I visited last month, appears destined for early release. I am told that U.N. Special Envoy Markar has redoubled his efforts to devise a formula that is acceptable to all parties. Portugal and Indonesia must be told it is time to find an acceptable agreement *now*. The door is opening for an end to this 23 year old violent controversy.

In another Southeast Asian example, Cambodia's recent electoral history has been bloody. After the violent July 1997 coup, in which scores of Cambodians were executed, Hun Sen delivered a devastating "body blow" to the democratic aspirations of the Cambodian people. Following a very difficult year, where Hun Sen was ostracized from the international community, elections were held last July. These elections resulted in a small majority for the Cambodian People's Party, led by Premier Hun Sen. Extra-judicial killings, co-opting and coercion of political opponents, human rights abuses, and media censorship that led up to the election tarnished the process at large while allegations of election improprieties undercut claims of a democratic process.

Moreover, the current power sharing arrangement between Hun Sen and Prince Ranariddh is tenuous at best, and rumors of special deals with Khmer Rouge leaders who recently surrendered have fed additional suspicions. This small, long-suffering country has far to go before Western observers will be convinced it is on the way to democratization. I was the author of an amendment that was passed in the foreign operations appropriation bill that barred aid to the government of Cambodia until democracy is restored. I remain unconvinced that this has occurred.

And, finally, as for China, despite its signing of the U.N. Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, it has yet to be ratified. China's desire for improved relations with the West contributed to the release of some high profile political prisoners and slight loosening of limits on public expression in early 1998;

however, the crackdown on the newly formed Chinese Democratic Party and other unregistered pro-democracy groups has demonstrated the continuing closed nature of the political system.

I want to emphasize here that I continue to support the excellent work of Mr. John Kamm, who has done much to learn the fate, and push for the release, of long-forgotten political prisoners. The physical and psychological lives of these prisoners, and of many other victims of Chinese human rights abuses, hang in the balance. We must continue to vigorously press Beijing to live up to both the letter and spirit of the international agreements it has signed. To this end, the first hearing this year in the House International Relations Committee concerned the recent crackdown on democracy movement leaders; a second hearing already has been held, and more are likely to be scheduled.

VI. CONCLUSION

I have reviewed a fraction—although a substantial and important fraction—of challenges and opportunities that will face the United States and Congress in Asia as we move into the 21st century. What I do I recommend, as both a Member of Congress and Chairman of the Asia and Pacific Subcommittee to my colleagues and to the Administration? A few bottom lines:

Vigorously promote regional security. In addition to maintaining our forward-deployed forces and strengthening our web of security Alliances, we need to explain the requirement for, promote, and collaboratively develop a regional missile defense system, as well as a limited national defense system at home.

Push the Administration to develop an effective, long-term strategy for dealing with Pyongyang in concert with our regional Allies. Such a strategy must hold the North to its commitment to the framework agreement if we are to release any of the \$35M pledged. Further, it must link the nuclear initiative with other U.S. security objectives related to ballistic missile proliferation and discussions on peace and stability in Korea and in the region. Most importantly, we must replace the reaction stance our actions and policy have become. They are too much like paying blackmail to avoid North Korean aggression or to delay facing a growing threat of weapons of mass destruction.

Actively assist Asian countries' recovery plans where possible and appropriate and strengthen U.S. leadership of systemic and structural reform. To do this, we must remain engaged in Asian markets and avoid protectionism, and exert more leadership in pressing for IMF reforms. We also must provide private and public sector expertise for reforming the Asian economic architecture.

Adopt the Bereuter-Ewing-Pickering plan for Chinese accession to the WTO through snap-back tariff legislation. Engaging China now, on our terms, in a free market economy, is a key means to encourage it toward responsible domestic and international behavior.

Energetically promote the advancement of democracy and freedom throughout Asia. The United States, for example, should support the Indonesian elections in June—free, fair, and transparent elections are too important for the U.S. not to get involved. We also should support the rule of law and village election assistance in the PRC, and not let a few of our misguided colleagues block the effort and discourage further Administration initiatives. While the costs of such programs are minimal, they can make a significant contribution to the evolution of democratic institutions in Asia.

Thank you very much for your attention.

CRISIS IN THE HORN OF AFRICA

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I spoke on February 9, 1999, to remark that it was essential that we act to help stop the escalation of the crisis in the Horn of Africa, and particularly the Ethiopia-Eritrean war, if the region was not to slide further into chaos. Since then, the anticipated war between Ethiopia and Eritrea has erupted and it keeps escalating. The war has already long-term and dire ramifications for both countries—beyond the impact of the growing numbers of casualties on both sides. The war is largely a low-tech and fairly static war of attrition along long miles of rugged and inhospitable terrain. The new offensive just launched by the Ethiopians is yet to alter the overall character of the war. However, both sides have embarked on an intense effort to acquire high quality air power in order to break the deadlock. Both countries not only purchased several late model combat aircraft and helicopters from states of the former Soviet Union but also engaged a large number of air crews and technicians to fly and maintain them. This effort, that is yet to impact the situation on the front line, is rapidly exhausting the hard currency holdings of these already impoverished states, thus further reducing their chance of economic recovery and development.

Dire as the situation in the Horn of Africa is, and as much as the casualties are lamentable, it is a valid question to ask: Why should we—the United States—care about yet another debilitating war in a remote part of Africa? Fortunately, the war has so far had little impact on the civilian population, there were no massacres, and there is no famine. Hence, there is no humanitarian catastrophe to attract our attention. Hence, I repeat, why should we care?

The reason we should pay close attention to the mounting crisis and escalating war is the vital strategic importance of the Horn of Africa to the United States and its close allies. The geo-strategic position of Ethiopia is central to several mega-dynamics stretching all the way from the Middle East to East Africa. Thus, the impact of instability and war reverberates directly to the heart of such areas commonly accepted as vital interests of the United States as Israel or the oil producing states of the Persian Gulf. Here are several major strategic factors in the region, demonstrating its great importance to the security interests of the United States:

1. The security of the Red Sea/Suez Canal Sea Lane of Communication (SLOC), which vitally affects EastWest trade (not just the oil trade) between Europe and Asia, including particularly Japan and Australia. Within this context, the ability of Israel and Jordan to maintain adequate maritime access to the Red Sea (and therefore world trade) is significant.

2. The containment of the spread of Islamist radicalism and terrorism—a process currently sponsored by Sudan's National Islamic Front (NIF) Government with the assistance of Iran. The hub of international terrorism in Sudan supports subversion throughout the Arab world and East Africa. A personal patron of Osama bin Laden, Hassan al-Turabi, Sudan's spiritual

leader, was instrumental in inspiring and sponsoring the bombing of the U.S. Embassies in Kenya and Tanzania. Having sponsored the eviction of the United States from Somalia, Khartoum is now trying to capitalize on the crisis in the Horn of Africa in order to evict the United States from the rest of this strategically critical area. Toward this end, the Islamists support several Islamist separatist movements in both Eritrea and Ethiopia, most notably the support for the radical separatist Oromo forces designed to break up Ethiopia still further.

3. The management of the Nile waters is critical to the stability, prosperity and growth of Sudan and Egypt, and therefore the stability of the entire Middle East. Egypt is completely dependent on the Nile water for its very existence and Cairo will therefore do anything to ensure the Nile's uninterrupted flow—including joining the radicals of the Muslim world, turning on the United States, Saudi Arabia, and Israel, etc. Sudan is also the driving force behind and key sponsor of the destabilization of Egypt. Gaining a foothold in Ethiopia will provide Khartoum with the possibility to manipulate the Nile's flow without direct implications.

Thus, stability in the Horn of Africa, and especially the existence of a unified and pro-Western Ethiopia, is of crucial importance to the national security of the United States. We must care and worry about the escalation of the Ethiopia-Eritrea war and the Sudan-sponsored Islamist forces exploiting it. This position is shared by the Ethiopia Crown Council. In my previous comments, I urged that we help reinforce the position of Prince Ermias SahleSelassie, the President of the Crown Council of Ethiopia, who is attempting to restore a policy of unity and moderation on Ethiopia and the region. Recently, Prince Ermias has written an excellent analysis of the crisis for the Defense & Foreign Affairs: Strategic Policy, the journal of the respected International Strategic Studies Association. In this overview, he urges that we see the Eritrea-Ethiopia conflict in the context of the broader regional strategic situation, to ensure that radicalization of the region. Prince Ermias stresses the dire ramifications of the deteriorating situation in Ethiopia:

"What we see now [in Ethiopia] is far less democracy and opportunity and prosperity than was being created under the Constitutional Monarchy of Haile Selassie. What we are witnessing today is a society led by people who arrived on the scene by accident; who are mired in divisive, petty squabbling. The result is that the region is divided and at risk. And the risk is one shared by the entire world: a further breakdown in the region could lead to the collapse of the pivotal powers, and a total disruption of the trade routes and the Middle Eastern oil trade. But worse than this, by not seeing the Ethiopia-Eritrea dispute in the broader context and acting accordingly, the world may be condemning the peoples of the region, including those of Egypt and North Africa, Arabia and the Northern Tier, to many more years of despair."

I share the view and the anguish. I add that the strategic posture of the United States is adversely affected by the reverberations from, and impact of, the continued war in the Horn of Africa. This is why we should not only pay attention to events there, but also act to bring an end to the war. However, any negotiated settlement that would leave the regional strategic posture unchanged would only be a

short term and temporary solution. Ultimately, it is imperative that long-term solutions are attained—nation building and economic revitalization under condition conducive for flow of private funds, not just hand outs of humanitarian assistance.

What makes the situation in the Horn of Africa so unique is that there is no need for a U.S. military intervention in order to establish such stability. There are indigenous forces in Ethiopia that, if properly supported, can help their own country and the entire region. I'm talking about the Ethiopian Crown Council. Constitutional monarchy, as was the case in the days of Emperor Haile Selassie, provides the best opportunity for Ethiopia. Mr. Speaker, it is clear that in Prince Ermias we have someone who understands, and can help stabilize the entire Horn of Africa. The situation is now becoming critical, and we must find ways to support him in the process of reunifying Ethiopia, which cannot be allowed to be dismembered, and in helping to bring about regional reconciliation—thus protecting and furthering national security interests of the United States and its close allies.

AFRICAN AMERICANS WHO HAVE MADE A VITAL ROLE IN SHAPING OUR NATION

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the many African Americans who, through personal sacrifice and unyielding perseverance, have had a vital role in shaping our nation. African Americans have made countless contributions throughout the history of the United States in the arts, sciences, literature, politics and in the military. They have made these achievements while working under extremely adverse conditions. In Virginia, we have a special appreciation for Black History Month and for the contributions of African-Americans to our state and nation.

Dr. Carter G. Woodson, considered the father of black history, was born in 1875 in Buckingham County, Virginia. Dr. Woodson originally conceived Negro History Week in 1926 as a celebration of African American achievement. This week of African American recognition later became Black History Month. Dr. Woodson was the youngest of nine children to former slaves. He was largely self taught due to the long hours required of him on his family's farm. Throughout his young adulthood, Dr. Woodson worked to support himself while studying. His hard work and discipline culminated in his becoming only the second African-American to earn his doctorate at Harvard. In 1915, Dr. Woodson established the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History to highlight African American contributions to American history and culture. Beginning in 1916, Dr. Woodson began publishing books and information on the African American experience in America. He held teaching positions at both Howard University and Virginia State College. At the end of his life in 1950, Dr. Woodson was working on an Encyclopedia Africana. Dr. Woodson is just one of many remarkable African Americans from Virginia.

Other black Virginians have been similarly distinguished. Tennis great Arthur Ashe learned to play tennis on segregated courts in Richmond and went on to become, not only a legend in the sport but also an international human rights leader. Mary Elizabeth Bowser spied for the Union army during the Civil War while a servant in the Confederate White House in Richmond. Henry "Box" Brown shipped himself to freedom in 1849 and then went on to become an outspoken advocate for the abolition of slavery. Virginia has contemporary African American heroes as well. Jazz legend Ella Fitzgerald was born in 1918 in Newport News Virginia. Samuel Lee Garvey, Jr. of Richmond became the first African American Navy Admiral in 1962. Samuel Dewitt Proctor, from Norfolk, who passed away in 1997, was a distinguished educator, preacher and speaker. Booker T. Washington was born in 1856 in Franklin County and became the founder of Tuskegee University in Alabama. And I am proud to say that Virginia was the first state in American history to elect an African American as Governor. With the election of Doug Wilder in 1989, our state made great strides toward healing the painful past for all Virginians.

Black History month is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the many contributions African Americans have made to the United States. Looking back over the history of Virginia and realizing the great things that have been accomplished often under harrowing conditions, I am hopeful for the future. Virginians and Americans can do much more for the greatness of our state and country if we take time to find out about one another and then more forward with respect to achieve greatness together. The Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History has chosen Black History Month 1999 to be time to reflect on the theme "The Legacy of African American Leadership, for the Present and Future." Virginia has a rich history of Black leadership that I am positive will portend a future of continued excellence.

TRIBUTE TO KING HUSSEIN

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor King Hussein ibn Talal al Hashem, a courageous leader and close U.S. ally who lent his stature as the Middle East's longest-serving leader to the service of peace. A wondrous achievement for any man, but even greater because it was accomplished after decades of struggle and at great risk to his standing among his neighbors and his own people. His death from cancer lost to Jordan a beloved king who brought stability in the face of great obstacles and lost to the world a man who in his final years worked tirelessly to leave behind a legacy of peace in his region.

When King Hussein was crowned in 1953, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan was a collection of Bedouin tribes—today it stands as a model of stability in the region with democratic freedoms unknown to most of the Arab world. His 46 year reign was an astonishing feat of survival. King Hussein dodged at least five assassination attempts, numerous coups, the

loss of a significant portion of his land, and, at critical points during his reign, miscalculations that sparked the ire of his Arab neighbors and the Western world. Yet he emerged in his later years as a wise voice for moderation in the region, using his wealth of experience and status as elder statesman to prod Israel and the Palestinians towards the ultimate goal of peace: a process which he had seen as necessary for the survival of his country and the region as a whole.

King Hussein had come to realize that his country's survival was inextricably linked to the fate of the State of Israel. His years of secret talks with Israeli leaders facilitated what would eventually become the first "warm" peace between Israel and an Arab country. I had the opportunity to participate in the White House signing of the 1994 peace agreement between Jordan and Israel, and was struck by King Hussein's courage in signing the agreement in the face of opposition by his Arab allies. The warmth of the handshake between the King and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin illustrated the genuine friendship that had grown between these two great leaders, and launched a relationship that should serve as a model for relations between Israel and her other Arab neighbors.

Since 1994, King Hussein spent enormous amounts of energy to broaden the peace by bringing a settlement to the Israel-Palestinian peace process. During the Hebron negotiations in 1997 and again at Wye Plantation in 1998, the King's presence made the difference between success and failure. While undergoing cancer treatment last fall, the King put his health at risk by traveling from the Mayo Clinic to the Wye Plantation at the request of President Clinton, who knew that only the King could inject that strong dose of reality necessary to remind the negotiators of their purpose. Cajoling, and sometimes scolding, the participants, he urged them to look beyond their petty differences and accept the compromises that would bring a brighter future to the region.

King Hussein will be remembered throughout the world as a man of honor, a man of wisdom, and a man of peace. I would like to express my sincere condolences to the family of King Hussein and the people of Jordan—your loss will be felt worldwide. I would also like to reaffirm our commitment to close relations between the U.S. and Jordan, and send my best wishes to King Abdullah, who has the strong support of Congress and the American people as he embarks on the leadership of his country and builds on the legacy of his father.

THE REINTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL URBAN WATERSHED MODEL RESTORATION ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I reintroduce the National Urban Watershed Model Restoration Act, a bill to establish a new approach to restoring urban waters. This pilot program, to be administered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), will serve as a national model for the restoration of urban watersheds and community environments. The

Anacostia River has been chosen as the pilot river because it is an especially polluted urban river located in the nation's capital that has drawn national attention and thus can lead the way for community-involved cleanup approaches that can be modeled and taken up nationally.

To achieve more focused and rapid action, the new program will integrate the various regulatory and non-regulatory programs of the EPA with other federal, state, and local programs to restore and protect the Anacostia River and promote community risk reduction. EPA is to coordinate its efforts with other federal partners, particularly the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. In addition to addressing a major local environmental concern, this model program will provide a framework for urban communities around the nation to work towards sustainable community redevelopment and to meet national environmental goals.

Under the new program, EPA shall allocate a total of \$750,000 per year over the next 4 fiscal years to implement the provisions of the Model Program. EPA may authorize no less than \$400,000 annually in the form of grants, which are to be matched on a 75–25 basis with other federal funds and state, local, and private contributions.

The Anacostia River has been my top environmental priority since coming to Congress in 1991. In the 104th Congress, I worked through the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment to authorize \$12 million of construction projects to help clean up and restore wetlands along the Anacostia watershed. I am pleased that the Administration has proposed over \$4 million in the Army Corps of Engineers' FY 2000 budget for Anacostia projects that springs from the original \$12 million authorization.

I am committed to whatever time and effort it takes to restore the river that runs through the neighborhoods of the nation's capital. The bill that I introduce today marks a renewed effort, as well as an innovative approach, to advancing this top environmental priority.

IN COMMEMORATION OF FEBRUARY 24

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, on February 24th the people of Cuba commemorate a glorious and tragic date in the history of their country. The 1895 war of independence began exactly 104 years ago; the Cry of Baire constitutes one of the most heroic acts of the Cuban people. Intimately connected with this date is the heroism of Marti, Gomez and Maceo and the thousands of freedom fighters known as mambises who shall forever ennoble the Cuban nationality.

Tragically, February 24th will also be forever connected with the murders which took place on that date in 1996. The Cuban tyrant, ultimately insulted by the courage demonstrated by the Brothers to the Rescue when they dropped pamphlets and other pieces of paper over Havana with pro-democracy slogans and copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights a few months back, ordered the murder of all the men and women who were going to

fly on February 24th in civilian planes carrying out humanitarian missions for Brothers to the Rescue.

The Cuban tyrant prepared his murders well. An agent of his by the name of Roque, who had occasionally flown for the Brothers to the Rescue organization, was ordered to return the day before to Cuba. Roque was going to publicly declare after the murders of February 24th that he was a survivor from the mission and that the humanitarian group's planes were taking arms to "Concilio Cubano", a coalition of dissident organizations inside Cuba which had announced its intention to host a public meeting in Havana on February 24th and whose membership was brutally repressed by the dictatorship. Roque would also announce that the planes had been shot down over Cuban waters.

Additionally, the Clinton Administration ordered that on February 24th, the U.S. Air Force not protect the planes of Brothers to the Rescue.

We all know that Pablo Morales, Armando Alejandro Jr., Mario de la Pena and Carlos Costa were brutally murdered on February 24, 1996. I am sure that those four martyrs of peace and patriotism will be duly memorialized in the democratic Cuba of tomorrow, as they are in South Florida today.

The intervention of the imponderable, of destiny, saved the third Brothers to the Rescue plane which flew on February 24, 1996, the plane flown by Jose Basulto. That intervention of the imponderable made it possible for the world and for history to know that the planes were shot down over international waters, while engaged in a peaceful and humanitarian mission. Roque had to remain quiet and the Clinton Administration as well as the Castro dictatorship had to accept the Helms-Burton Law (with the codification of the embargo, codification being something which neither the Clinton Administration nor Castro ever expected was going to be part of the Helms-Burton Law).

After the murders, there are two obvious questions which need to be answered.

First, why was the order given on February 24, 1996 to the U.S. Air Force that it not protect the planes of the Brothers to the Rescue? In effect, the White House had to have issued a counter order for that day, since a standing order exists requiring the U.S. Air Force to intercept every plane that is detected coming toward the United States from Cuba.

And secondly, why has Castro not been prosecuted for his cold blooded murders of February 24, 1996, even after he admitted to the international press that he himself ordered the murders?

IN MEMORY OF OFFICER STEVEN MICHAEL JERMAN

HON. JOHN E. PETERSON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, like many communities in my district, Kane, Pennsylvania is a town of less than 6,000. It is a quaint and quiet community where residents share similar values, beliefs and a strong work ethic. Sadly however, Kane residents must now share in their pain, sorrow, and sense of loss.

Last weekend, Kane lost one of its finest individuals. Kane Police Officer Steven Michael Jerman was killed in the line of duty. Officer Jerman was a 23-year veteran of the small-town police force and was regarded with the utmost of respect by all who knew him. He devoted his career to helping youngsters by steering them away from the destructive path of drugs and alcohol. Officer Jerman ran a drug-prevention program which is credited for saving the lives and livelihoods of dozens of teens in the Kane area.

Ironically, it would be the issue about which he had the most passion that would take the life of Officer Jerman. He was shot and killed by a teenager who got drunk, got behind a wheel and became violent—the very behavior he fought so hard to stop.

This incident, which has devastated the community, is an eerie reminder that drug and alcohol abuse by our nation's youth is all too prevalent. I believe the best way to honor the life of Officer Jerman is for the community, police force, and for family and friends of Jerman to carry out his legacy by continuing the fight against drugs and alcohol among our youth.

My wife Sandy and I offer our heartfelt and sincere sympathy to Jerman's wife and two children for this tragic loss. We also share in the sorrow of the town of Kane and entire Commonwealth.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF JOHN H. KELLER, SR., OF LIMA, OH UPON HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a true public servant and model citizen on the occasion of his 90th birthday.

On March 12, 1909, John H. Keller, Sr., was born in Lima, OH. In 1927, John graduated from Lima Central High School, where he was president of the Allen County Wheelman—a group of bicycling enthusiasts. He went on to Bluffton College, where he graduated on June 10, 1931. He received further instruction at Northwestern University's Garrett Theological Seminary in Chicago. He married Charlotte Mary Basinger in 1936.

John Keller is above all else a tireless civic participant. He has committed himself to witness and take part in countless governmental meetings which deliberate for the public good and he has served as a board member for agencies such as the city of Lima Tree Commission among others.

From 1941 through 1974, John worked as a brakeman and conductor on the Nickel Plate Road and on the Norfolk & Western Railway. He was an officer of Local No. 457 of the United Transportation Union, and past-president and legislative representative (1950–1974) of Lodge No. 200 of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen.

Mr. Keller has recently retired from the board of trustees of the Allen County Historical Society after five decades of service. Mr. Keller is recognized as a respected expert on railroads. The Allen County Historical Museum's impressive collection of railroad artifacts, records, and memorabilia, reported to be one of the best in the Nation and named the John

H. Keller Collection, is a direct result of Mr. Keller's outstanding reputation in his field.

Besides being able to recount much of Allen County's history, John Keller, has been an active participant in shaping much of it for over 80 years. It gives me great pleasure to congratulate him on his 90th birthday and wish him many, many more.

IN HONOR OF MR. BILL WRIGHT—DONIPHAN, MO 1999 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, February 20, 1999, Mr. Bill Wright of Doniphan, Missouri was honored by the local Chamber of Commerce as the 1999 Citizen of the Year. More specifically, Bill was nominated for this recognition by his community because of his lifetime commitment to the Town of Doniphan—which makes this honor that much sweeter.

Bill is well known in his community. He has been a life-long resident of Doniphan which is a small rural community located just outside the Mark Twain National Forest in Ripley County, Missouri. In fact, Bill has not only lived in the same town all of his life, but his home is on the very same spot of the original house in which he was born in 1917. Bill's family history in Doniphan is well established with one of the local parks, the Wright Park along Bill's beloved Current River, was named after his forefathers. Bill graduated from Doniphan High School in 1935 and attended Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri from 1935 to 1937. Having played basketball in high school, Bill continues to be an avid fan of the sport. He is a regular spectator of the Doniphan High School "Don" and "Donettes" basketball. The morning after every game Bill can be heard on the local radio recapping the events. According to Bill, his continued ties to the high school have allowed him to "keep in touch with more school students than he could have otherwise," and he has made bonds that have lasted through the generations.

In addition to his love of basketball, Bill is a husband, a father and a grandfather. He has been married to Louise—who shares his love of basketball—for 33 years, and they have a daughter and a son and six grandchildren. Bill is a lifetime member of the United Methodist Church, where he served several years as the church secretary and where he just finished a year term as president of the church men's organization. He also served 4 years in the Army, where he served a tour of duty in Europe.

I know from personal experience that Bill is a very active and energetic member of his community, and his positive contribution to his community is reflected through the Doniphan townsfolk's nominating Bill for Citizen of the Year. I think that Doniphan Chamber of Commerce President Russ O'Neil best sums up the essence of Bill Wright when he said that Bill "could be counted on for a friendly smile, a handshake and a kind word. [Bill] has been actively involved in Doniphan and the community for many years and has chosen to support activities that would have positive affects on

the people who call Doniphan home." Congratulations, Bill. May you, your loved ones, and the people of Doniphan be blessed with many more years of your thoughtful dedication to family, community and country.

LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS ACT

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, as a Member of Congress, I am continually seeking sound policy changes that will make and keep our economy productive, create jobs and improve the overall quality of life for Americans. It is my belief that an important element of a productive economy is modern, efficient and environmentally responsible space for Americans to work, shop and recreate. In order to create and maintain such space, a building owner must regularly change, reconfigure or somehow improve office, retail and commercial space to meet the needs of new and existing tenants.

I believe that the Internal Revenue Code's cost recovery rules associated with leasehold improvements are an impediment for building owners needing to make such improvements. Therefore, I am pleased to introduce this legislation to change the cost recovery rules associated with leasehold improvements.

Simply stated, this legislation would allow building owners to depreciate specified building improvements using a 10-year depreciable life, rather than the 39 years required by current law, thereby matching more closely the expenses incurred to construct these improvements with the income the improvements generate under the lease.

To qualify under the legislation, the improvement must be constructed by a lessor or lessee in the tenant-occupied space. In an effort to ensure that the legislation is as cost efficient as possible, improvements constructed in common areas of a building, such as elevators, escalators and lobbies, would not qualify; nor would improvements made to new buildings.

Office, retail, or other commercial rental real estate is typically reconfigured, changed or somehow improved on a regular basis to meet the needs of new and existing tenants. Internal walls, ceilings, partitions, plumbing, lighting and finish each are elements that might be the type of improvement made within a building to accommodate a tenant's requirements, and thereby ensure that the work or shopping space is a modern, efficient, and environmentally responsible as possible.

Unfortunately, today's depreciation rules do not differentiate between the economic useful life of a building improvement—which typically corresponds with a tenant's lease-term—and the life of the overall building structure. The result is that current tax law dictates a depreciable life for leasehold improvements of 39 years—the depreciable life for the entire building—even though most commercial leases typically run for a period of 7 to 10 years. As a result, after-tax cost of reconfiguring, or building out, office, retail, or other commercial space to accommodate new tenants or modernizing workplaces is artificially high. This hinders urban reinvestment and construction

job opportunities as improvements are delayed or not undertaken at all.

Additionally, a widespread shift to more energy-efficient, environmentally sound building elements is discouraged by the current tax system because of their typically higher expense. For example, the Natural Resources Defense Council notes that commercial lighting alone consumes more than one-third of the electrical energy produced in the United States. If a greater conservation potential of energy-efficient lighting were to be realized, the demand for the equivalent of one hundred 1,000-megawatt powerplants could be eliminated, with corresponding reductions in air pollution and global warming.

Reform of the cost recovery rules for leasehold improvements has been long overdue but we are making progress. A few years ago, Congress enacted legislation I sponsored, along with my colleague Mr. RANGEL, that would clarify that building owners are permitted to fully deduct and close out any uncovered leasehold improvement expenses remaining at the time a lease expires and the improvements are demolished. Resolution of the "close-out" issue was an important reform step. Modifying the recovery period for improvements is the logical and reasonable next step in the reform process.

This legislation should be enacted this year. This would acknowledge the fact that improvements constructed for one tenant are rarely suitable for another, and that when a tenant leaves, the space is typically built-out over again for a new tenant. It is important to note that prior to 1981 our tax laws allowed these improvement costs to be deducted over the life of the lease. Subsequent legislation, however, abandoned this policy as part of a move to simplify and shorten building depreciation rules in general to 15 years. Given that buildings are now required to be depreciated over 39 years, it is time to face economic reality and reinstate a separate depreciation period for building improvements to tenant occupied space.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my fellow members to review and support this important job producing, urban revitalization legislation. I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Ways and Means Committee to enact this bill.

RECOGNITION OF JOHN F. DEERING MIDDLE SCHOOL AWARD WINNERS

HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a group of students who attend John F. Deering Middle School in West Warwick, Rhode Island. These exceptional young people recently participated in several different academic contests in Rhode Island.

Eight seventh-grade students—Michael Casey, Michael Petrarca, Daniel Politelli, Robert Caires, and Ali Shihadeh—were statewide award winners of "The Best Research Skills Award" in the portfolio segment of the Providence Journal Stock Market Game Fall Competition. The group had the good fortune to be coached by Marcelline Zambudo and Tamara Casimiro, two dedicated teachers at Deering

Middle School. Five other Deering students—Alyssa Lavalley, Kristin Capaldo, Colleen Pigott, Anthony Politelli, and Jarred Trouve—were award winners in a statewide writing contest in Rhode Island, and they were honored by having their writing samples and artwork displayed in the published book *Mysteries, Monsters, Memories* and more.

In addition to these outstanding achievements, three other students—Dannielle Vanesse, Danielle Crowe, and Danielle DeRosa—won the school's annual spelling bee for the respective classes. These three young women will now have the honor to represent Deering Middle School in the Regional Spelling Bee to be held March 6. Finally, of the forty-eight students from Deering who participated in the National Geographic Geography Bee, three finalists remained after nine rounds of double elimination. Michael Petrarca won first place while representing the 7 Platinum Team; Jarred Trouve received second place with 8 Orange Team; and Anthony Politelli came in third place with 8 Black Team. These young men benefited from the hard work and commitment of their teachers, Greg Kortick, Joseph Lancellotta, and Tamara Casimiro.

We spend a lot of time in these chambers discussing the problems facing the youth and students of America, but I stand today to applaud and support the positive accomplishments of these young people and their teachers. Each of these students and teachers is a positive and important resource to West Warwick, and it is vital that we continue to recognize and build on the assets of our educational system. I thank these students and their teachers from Deering Middle School for their dedication and commitment to their academic pursuits, and I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating each of them on their impressive accomplishments.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MENTAL HEALTH JUVENILE JUSTICE ACT

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to join my colleagues Representatives KAPTUR and STRICKLAND, and our other cosponsors, in introducing the Mental Health Juvenile Justice Act.

Our nation's juvenile justice facilities are increasingly overcrowded, unsafe, and inadequately staffed. We need to reform our juvenile justice system to ensure that it preserves the basic rights and human dignity of the children and youth housed in its facilities and that it does not become a dumping ground for youth who would be better served in mental health and substance abuse treatment programs.

Too many young people are being punished—rather than treated—for their troubles. Treatment and other services simply are not available when they should be, and as a result children are literally churned up inside the juvenile justice system.

The particular characteristics of criminal acts of individual juveniles require us to have a range of appropriate responses. Alternatives to incarceration will not work for all youth. But

we need to ensure that even those youth who do serve time in correctional facilities are safe from abuse and have access to appropriate medical and psychiatric treatment.

Unfortunately, this is not currently the case.

Each year, more than one million children come in contact in some way with the juvenile justice system. Over 100,000 of these youth are detained in a correctional facility.

The rate of mental disorders is significantly higher among the juvenile justice population than among youths in the general population. Federal studies suggest that as many as 60% of incarcerated youth have some mental health disorder and 20% have a severe disorder. In my home state of California, a recent study by the California Youth Authority found that 35% of boys in its custody and 73% of girls need mental health or substance abuse treatment.

In an article published in March of last year, reporter Fox Butterfield wrote in *The New York Times* that "jails and prisons have become the nation's new mental hospitals." In the article, Dr. Linda Reyes, a psychologist and assistant executive director of the Texas Youth Commission called the incarceration of adolescents with mental disorders "tragic and absurd." "The system we have created is totally ineffective," said Dr. Reyes.

Many youngsters in the juvenile justice system have committed minor, non-violent offenses or status offenses. The incarceration of these youngsters is often the result of inadequate local mental health services. These youngsters, their families, and society, could be better served if we made available appropriate local mental health, substance abuse, and educational services as an alternative to incarceration, particularly for first offenders and non-violent offenses.

Such services have proven more effective than incarceration in preventing troubled young people from re-offending and are less expensive than prison. In the long run, they are even more cost-effective to us as a society, because they increase the odds that a young person will become a responsible, productive, taxpaying citizen rather than a permanent ward of the state.

Last November, Amnesty International released a report indicating an increasing problem of youthful offenders being subjected to physical abuse and a lack of appropriate services. The report documents incidents in which youth were shackled, sprayed with chemicals, over-medicated, and even punished with electro-shock devices.

Amnesty International also found that 38 states housed juveniles in adult prisons with no special programs or educational services. Youth in these adult facilities are five times more likely to be sexually assaulted, twice as likely to be beaten by staff, and eight times more likely to commit suicide than children in juvenile facilities.

One incident in Amnesty's report involved a youth from California named Nicholas Contreras. At last count, the California Youth Authority's correctional institutions held 25% more youth than their specified capacity; but the state also sends hundreds of children to out-of-state facilities which would not be licensed under California's own state laws and which receive very little oversight from the authorities responsible for placing children in them.

Nicholas Contreras died in March of last year at one such facility, while staff forced him

to do "push-ups," despite clear signs of his poor physical health. His body was found with 71 cuts, bruises, and abrasions.

California has since stopped sending children to this facility and action has been taken by the state of Arizona against the individuals responsible. Perhaps if we had clearer rules and better oversight, however, conditions like those that contributed to Nicholas' death would never occur, or at least would be corrected before they resulted in fatalities. Tragically, however, no such system is now in place.

The bill we are introducing today, the Mental Health Juvenile Justice Act, would help create alternatives to incarceration, particularly for first-time non-violent offenders, and improve conditions in youth correctional institutions by:

Providing funds to train juvenile justice personnel on the identification and need for appropriate treatment of mental disorders and substance abuse, and on the use of community-based alternatives to placement in juvenile correctional facilities.

Providing block grant funds and competitive grants to states and localities to develop local mental health diversion programs for children who come into contact with the justice system and broaden access to mental health and substance abuse treatment programs for incarcerated children with emotional disorders.

Establishing a Federal Council to report to Congress on recommendations to improve the treatment of youth with serious emotional and behavioral disorders who come into contact with the justice system.

Strengthening federal courts' ability to remedy abusive conditions in state facilities under which juvenile offenders and prisoners with mental illness are being held.

Our bill addresses important issues in the lives of our nation's young people and for all of our society. As Michael Faenza, President of the National Mental Health Association has said, "Treating young people, with or without mental disorders, in dehumanizing ways is not the answer to question of crime prevention and public safety. And it's not the way to make children productive, law-abiding, and caring citizens."

I look forward to working with my colleagues in enacting this legislation.

UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of my colleagues to a resolution on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The following resolution was unanimously approved by 150 people from Vermont and New Hampshire who gathered at two events commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. I agree with their statement that "human rights, as articulated in the Declaration, will be best assured when all nations work in concert to promote and protect them."

I call the attention of my colleagues to this resolution and ask that it be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for their benefit:

RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO FULLY IMPLEMENT THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

We call upon the United States government to ensure that the laws, actions, programs and policies of the United States, both foreign and domestic, including government import, export, business and development policies affecting the welfare of all of the peoples of the world, be consistent with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and its two implementing International Covenants of 1966;

Further, we urge the United States government to:

Ratify the 1966 Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, the 1992 Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court; Satisfy all of its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations, including the Statute of the International Court of Justice with a declaration under Article 36 which recognizes that Statute as compulsory;

Abide by Article 6 of the United States Constitution, which states that all treaties signed and ratified by the United States government are the law of the land;

Acknowledge that the United Nations was created by international treaty and therefore payment of UN dues without conditions is an obligation with the force of American law.

We also call on the governments of all nations to mandate in every school under their jurisdiction, the teaching of the principles and methods of non-violent social change, the history of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and how people throughout the world have struggled and continue to struggle to make it a lived reality in the life of every person, everywhere.

Unanimously approved by 150 residents of Vermont and New Hampshire who gathered at two events commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Further endorsed by the American Friends Service Committee (Vermont), the United Nations Association (Vermont), the World Federalist Association (New Hampshire and Vermont) and Amnesty International (Hanover, NH).

CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ANTI-SEMITIC STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS OF THE RUSSIAN DUMA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, racism, ethnic hatred, and xenophobia are the bane of any civilized society. Our own country has had to battle with these phenomena in the past and continues to do so today.

In Europe, with the end of the Cold War, we have unfortunately seen a resurrection of racist attitudes and activities that had not been eradicated with the defeat of Nazism, just driven underground.

In Russia, a nation whose past has seen terrible instances of anti-Semitism both in the Tsarist and Communist eras, anti-Semitism had seemingly been exiled to the pages of rabidly nationalistic newspapers catering only to the political fringes. Unfortunately, anti-Semitism has now come in out of the cold into

more comfortable confines—specifically into the halls of the Russian State Duma, the lower house of the Russian Parliament. In fairness, I should say that anti-Semitism has found refuge in the ranks of one particular political party in the Duma—the Communist Party. Last October, at two public rallies, a Communist Party member of the Duma, Albert Makashov, threatened "the Yids" and other "reformers and democrats" with physical retribution for allegedly causing Russia's current problems.

Incidentally, I have seen films of Mr. Makashov's performance. It is quite sobering.

When conscientious members of the Duma attempted to censure Mr. Makashov, the Communist Party majority voted down the resolution, and substituted a watered down resolution condemning ethnic hatred in general.

In early December, at hearings in the Duma, Communist Party member and chairman of the Defense Committee, Victor Ilyukhin blamed President Yeltsin's "Jewish entourage" for alleged "genocide against the Russian people." In response to the public outcry, both in Russia and abroad, Communist Party chairman Zyuganov explained that the Party had nothing against "Jews," just "Zionism."

Mr. Speaker, it would be hypocritical for me or any other member of this body to pretend that racism and anti-Semitism do not occasionally rear their ugly heads in our own political process. However, the leadership of the two major American political parties consistently rejects racist or anti-Semitic individuals as officeholders or candidates for office. For instance, the national Republican Party leadership has disassociated itself from a former member of the Ku Klux Klan running for office on the Republican Party ballot in Louisiana. Similarly, when a local Klan leader in California ran for Congress on the Democratic Party ticket a few years ago, the national party leadership repudiated his candidacy and refused to support him. That is why it is so disappointing to see the leadership of the Communist Party in Russia attempt to rationalize anti-Semitic statements made by its members.

Incidentally, I should add that since these incidents Mr. Makashov and Mr. Ilyukhin have stated that in the next parliamentary elections they will run on a ticket separate from the Communist Party.

In any event, I believe the Congress should unequivocally condemn the anti-Semitic statements made by members of the Russian Duma. With this in mind, today I am introducing, along with Mr. HOYER, Mr. WOLF, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. PORTER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. SALMON, a resolution which condemns anti-Semitic statements made by members of the Russian Duma while commending actions taken by fair-minded members of the Duma to censure the purveyors of anti-Semitism within their ranks. In addition, this resolution commends President Yeltsin and other members of the Russian Government for their forceful rejection of such statements. Finally, this resolution reiterates the firm belief of the Congress that peace and justice cannot be achieved as long as governments and legislatures promote policies based upon anti-Semitism, racism, and xenophobia.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to join us in support of this resolution.

THE CARE GIVERS TAX
REDUCTION ACT**HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to introduce the Care Givers Tax Reduction Act, which will update the Dependent Care Tax Credit to more accurately reflect the costs of providing care to loved ones.

A great deal has happened in this country since 1982, including the price working families pay to care for their children or aging parents. While the cost of quality care has dramatically increased, the amount families can take as a tax credit has eroded during the past seventeen years. In fact, inflation has eroded 60 percent of the value of the current credit since it was last adjusted. It is time for Congress to update the tax credit to more accurately reflect the true costs of providing care for families in our districts.

Our workforce is rapidly changing and middle aged adults are becoming members of the sandwich generation—providing care for both their children and their aging parents. Currently, the federal tax credit available to provide financial assistance for care is the Dependent Care Tax Credit. This credit is currently non-refundable so families with no tax liability are not able to benefit from the dependent care tax credit.

The tax credit has not been adjusted for inflation since 1982. Currently, the tax credit only allows taxpayers to use the first \$2,400 of expenses for one child or dependent and the first \$4,800 of expenses for two or more children or dependents. These levels are woefully low and do not reflect the real costs in our districts. The Care Givers Tax Reduction Act of 1999 will update this credit and raise the levels to more accurately reflect the cost of providing care—\$4,000 for one child or dependent and \$8,000 for two or more children or dependents. Finally, my legislation ties future amounts of the tax credit to inflation.

Furthermore, my legislation would allow the maximum tax credit of 30% to families with an adjusted gross income of \$18,000. For every \$3,000 more of adjusted gross income, the percentage of the tax credit would be reduced by one. The phaseout would end at 12% for families earning over \$69,000 in adjusted gross income. Under my proposal, a family of four with two children in child care earning \$32,000 will see their taxes reduced by \$2,000. My legislation would not diminish any credit a family currently receives but would allow low and middle income families to receive more for providing care to their children and aging parents.

This legislation will provide much needed financial assistance to working families for their child care needs. For example, Elaine, a single mother in Rhode Island, earns \$28,000 a year as a clerk for a local utility company. Her salary puts her just above the amount with which she would be eligible for assistance from the state to help pay for the child care needs of her two children. Unfortunately, the weekly cost for quality care for her two children amounts to more than \$200. Assuming her children are in day care for 52 weeks of the year, her child care costs would amount to over \$10,000. This situation occurs far too frequently,

with parents earning too much to qualify for assistance but not enough to afford quality child care without any assistance.

Currently, Elaine would receive the maximum tax credit of \$1,440 to help her pay for child care expenses. However, if she had no tax liability, which is often the case with lower income workers, she would not be able to receive a refund for her expenses. Under my legislation, Elaine would be eligible for a refundable tax credit of \$2,080.

This legislation will make child care more affordable for Elaine's family and other working families of our country. I ask my colleagues to join with me in support of updating this tax credit so more families can benefit.

EAGLE SCOUTS HONORED

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to bring to the attention of my colleagues, twenty-seven outstanding young individuals from the 3rd Congressional District of Illinois, who have completed a major goal in their scouting career.

The following young men of the 3rd Congressional District of Illinois have earned the high rank of Eagle Scout in the past months: Christopher Jesionowski, Gerald Reid, Jr., Charles R. Dattilo, David W. Kurzawski, Kenneth R. Cechura, Matthew J. Tiffany, Carl Marcanti, Adam Ramm, Daniel David Grabacki, Brian T. Meyer, James Joseph Pesavento, Andrew Paul Marhoul, Corey G. Zadlo, Joshua S. Anderson, Jacob P. Anderson, William (Bill) Skobutt, Gregory Prawdzik, Mark Tatar, Jason M. Wolff, Richard J. Michals, Matthew A. Hemchasky, Tomasz Sokolowski, William F. Urso, Eric Michael Dusik, Paul Mervine, Preston Gale, and Keith Klikas. These young men have demonstrated their commitment to their communities, and have perpetuated the principles of scouting. It is important to note that less than two percent of all young men in America attain the rank of Eagle Scout. This high honor can only be earned by those scouts demonstrating extraordinary leadership abilities.

In light of the commendable leadership and courageous activities performed by these fine young men, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the above scouts for attaining the highest honor in Scouting—the Rank of Eagle. Let us wish them the very best in all of their future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF THE
SCHOOLYARD SAFETY ACT**HON. JENNIFER DUNN**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, in May 1998, Kip Kinkel of Hillsborough, Oregon showed up on his school grounds with a firearm, was expelled and sent home. He was not detained for a psychological evaluation or placed in custody to protect his innocent classmates. The following day he showed up at school

again with a gun, shot several students, and returned home where he killed his parents. Three years ago, a Moses Lake, Washington middle school student brought a gun to school and killed two students and a teacher. Weeks ago, a student showed up at Stanwood High School in Washington with a loaded weapon, where fortunately there were no injuries to fellow students.

These tragic stories demonstrate the need for our schools and communities to have in place a policy to protect our children from gun violence in our schools. Expelling youths once they have brought a gun onto school grounds is not enough, as the tragic story of Kip Kinkel illustrates. Who knows how the outcome might have been different had Kip been detained in protective custody or given a psychological evaluation to determine whether he was indeed a threat to the community? Our laws are very clear with respect to possession of firearms. It is a crime under both State and Federal laws to have firearms on school grounds. However we have failed to address the underlying issue—many of our youths have serious problems and are a danger to themselves and others. When an adolescent disobeys the law or threatens the safety of other students, it is our responsibility to help that child before he or she commits any further crimes and to minimize risks to the community. These youths must be detained and their crime must be taken seriously.

For this reason, Representative PETER DEFAZIO and I are reintroducing the Schoolyard Safety Act, our legislation from last year encouraging states to pass measures holding juveniles for at least 24 hours if they bring guns onto school grounds. Rather than create further burdensome regulations or mandates, we leave the authority and accountability in the hands of those closest to the situation, while providing the funding necessary for states to implement these protective programs. This funding could help pay for holding centers, psychological evaluations, or other preventative measures decided on by those closest to the danger—teachers and school officials whose primary responsibility is educating our children, and who have been forced to take on the role of providing for their physical safety instead.

The people of Springfield, Oregon know all too well how easily crime can break the heart of a community. Every man, woman, and child in that town had the right to expect to live on a safe street and send their children to safe schools. Children who learn in fear are learning the wrong lessons. It is our responsibility to do whatever we can to prevent a horrible tragedy like this from happening again.

WELLTON-MOWHAWK PROJECT
TRANSFER**HON. ED PASTOR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, today I am in introducing legislation to transfer title to the Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District in Yuma, Arizona from the Federal Government to the project beneficiaries. It pleases me to say that I am supported in this effort by my Arizona colleagues, Congressmen STUMP,

KOLBE, and HAYWORTH and that Arizona Senator JON KYL has introduced identical legislation in the other body.

Last Congress, similar legislation was passed by the Senate, but it failed to receive the consideration of this chamber, Senator KYL and I continued our work with representatives of the Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District and the Bureau of Reclamation, and this bill is a product of that effort. It is in accordance with the administration's policy framework for such title transfers.

I urge my colleagues on the House Resources Committee to act favorably on this measure early on in this first session, so we can move forward with the project transfer.

THE CHILD CARE WORKER INCENTIVE ACT OF 1999

HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Child Care Worker Incentive Act, which will create educational opportunities for those who are for our youngest children—our child care workers.

Quality and affordable child care is extremely important for the healthy development of all children. An increasing amount of research confirms that responsive child care is essential to the positive development of the brain. In fact, recent studies by the University of Chicago show that a child's intelligence develops equally as much during the first four years of his or her life as it does between the ages of four and eighteen.

In order to ensure quality in child care we need dedicated and well-educated child care workers. Unfortunately, the field has historically had a significant problem attracting and retaining these quality workers. Nationally, child care teachers earn an average of \$6.89 per hour or \$12,058 per year, only 18 percent of child care centers offer fully paid health coverage for teaching staff and one-third of all child care teachers leave their centers each year.

I was honored to join President Clinton, Vice President GORE and First Lady Hillary Clinton at the White House Conference on Child Care in October of 1997. At the conference, we discussed many innovative approaches to improving quality child care for the children of our country. One of the programs highlighted at the conference was the T.E.A.C.H. (Teacher Education and Compensation Helps) Early Childhood Project in North Carolina.

Shortly thereafter, I visited Kidworks, a child care center in North Carolina where several child care workers have been involved in the T.E.A.C.H. Project. I can attest to the success of this program in raising the education levels of child care workers in North Carolina and, by doing so, has improved the quality of child care for countless children in that state. The T.E.A.C.H. Project provides scholarships to child care workers in return for a commitment from the teacher that they will remain in the child care field for a certain amount of time. Scholarship costs are based on a partnership and are shared by the T.E.A.C.H. Project, the child care center and the teacher. Because of the increased education, the children in the

care of T.E.A.C.H. Project participants receive better quality child care. If they complete their educational goal, participants receive a salary increase, through either a raise or bonus.

There have been great results with this program. Over 2,200 child care providers have completed their state's Early Childhood Education Credential on a scholarship from the T.E.A.C.H. Project which translates into a better educated workforce. Participants in the associate's degree program have received, on average, a 30% increase in compensation at the end of the four years of participation as a T.E.A.C.H. associate's degree scholarship, which means a better paid workforce. In addition, participants in the associate's degree program have less than a 10% turnover rate per year, as opposed to the statewide turnover rate of 42%. Of those participants in the bachelor's degree program, there has been a 0% turnover rate. This low rate means less tumultuous adjustment for children and thus, better quality child care. All indicators point that the T.E.A.C.H. Project has made a difference to increasing the educational levels of child care workers, increasing their pay and lowering turbulent turnover rates.

Last year, I visited a day care center in Rhode Island where I met with Judy Victor. Judy is a day care provider who expressed to me her concerns with the rapid turnover among her employees. She said, "You must be able to afford good people. If you get someone good, the low pay drives them out."

After hearing Judy's thoughts and after viewing the success of the T.E.A.C.H. Project, I have introduced the Child Care Worker Incentive Act. This legislation would create similar scholarship programs throughout the nation. These child care scholarships will provide tuition assistance to child care workers who have a demonstrated commitment to children and a career in child care. The legislation provides great flexibility to states to design programs which most appropriately fit the needs of the children in their state.

Among other provisions, the legislation requires each state's scholarship program to have the following components.

Demonstrated Commitment by a Child Care Worker—The individual applying for the scholarship assistance must be employed by a licensed or registered child care provider or have a commitment for employment from a licensed or registered child care provider. The individual must agree to continue to be employed in the field of child care for at least one year after receiving the training for which the assistance is provided.

Demonstrated Commitment from a Child Care Employer—In exchange for a commitment from a child care worker to obtain further education and thus provide better quality child care to the children within the center, the child care center must agree to pay a share of the cost of the education or training. In addition, the employer must agree to provide increased financial incentives to the child care worker, such as a salary increase or bonus when the individual completes the education or training.

The legislative language is very similar to the language proposed in the Affordable and Quality Child Care Act of 1998 from the 105th Congress (H.R. 4030), which garnered the support of 132 members. If our nation is serious about improving child care, we need to improve the education and salary of those who are charged with caring for our children.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

IN HONOR OF WILLIAM L. PECK

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to William L. Peck, a man distinguished by his 37-year dedication to our system of jurisprudence and, particularly, his service on the bench of the Ventura County Superior Court.

Judge Peck retired last month. His passion, wisdom and outspokenness in defense of the law will be missed within the Ventura County Hall of Justice.

Judge Peck graduated from Boalt Law School at the University of California and Berkeley in 1961, and joined the Ventura County District Attorney's Office in 1962. In 1965, he went into private practice, where he remained until his appointment to the Ventura County Superior Court bench in 1980.

He served in many capacities during his judicial service, including presiding judge in 1985 and 1986. During his tenure he also served as presiding judge of the Appellate Department of the Court, and retired as supervising judge of the Civil Trial Judges of the Superior Court.

Judge Peck believes the justice system fails when a civil case goes to trial, and worked tirelessly over the years to bring parties to agreement. His efforts are credited with greatly reducing the court's calendar.

The law was equally important in Judge Peck's work outside the courtroom. He served in several capacities on the Ventura County Bar Association, including president in 1972. For several years he served on the Conference of Delegates for the State Bar of California. He served on the California Judges Association Board of Directors. In addition, Judge Peck held memberships in the Ventura County Criminal Defense Bar Association, Ventura County Trial Lawyers Association and the American Bar Association.

He also shared his love of the law with schoolchildren by participating as a judge for several years at the Mock Trials Competition for Ventura County High Schools. He supported the education of our youth as a member of the Ventura County School District Board of Education, the Ventura County School Boards Association, the Ventura County Committee on School District Organization and the California School Boards Association.

Judge Peck also served on a myriad of other community committees and boards throughout his distinguished career. His service was also recognized through numerous awards, including his selection as Citizen of the Year by the Ventura Junior Chamber of Commerce in 1983; and the Petit Award for Outstanding Community Service in 1980 from the Ventura Chamber of Commerce.

When not accepting assignments as a retired jurist, Judge Peck will share his retirement with his wife, Laura. They have two children, Eric and Adair.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in recognizing William Peck for his decades of service and wish him and his family Godspeed in his retirement.

HONORING WACO, TEXAS ON ITS
150TH BIRTHDAY**HON. CHET EDWARDS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to the City of Waco on its 150th birthday. A dedicated and hard-working breed of Texan has taken Waco from a sleepy pioneer village settled in the 1840s to a bustling business and commercial hub ready to move into the 21st century. For a century and a half, Waco has taken the best and made it better, faced the worst and never retreated but always, always moved forward.

Waco has seen its fair share of boom times and depression, war and peace, hot summers and freezing winters. Waco has always shown an amazing ability to adapt, and to always remain true to the spirit of the first settlers who put down roots on the banks of the Brazos River.

The first settlers and those who followed in their footsteps would be amazed by how Waco has grown and prospered over the past 150 years. They would see that the famous Chisolm Trail where millions of cattle were driven to northern rail heads is now replaced with an Interstate Highway. Interstate 35 is the new concrete and asphalt Chisolm Trail that streams with goods going to market and people traveling to the four points of the compass.

The settlers would also see that several bridges now span the great Brazos River. A century ago the only way to cross the river was by ferry or on a single suspension bridge. These days, Waco has moved from ferry rides to family vans and four-wheel drives that easily cross the river on steel and concrete bridges.

The settlers would also see that the Bosque River, has been dammed and a glittering lake now provides a stable supply of clean water to thousands of Central Texas families. The settlers would also be amazed to see mile after mile of homes, schools, hospitals and churches that have sprung up in the past 150 years. The settlers would see that the clothes are different, the homes are nicer, the people are healthier and life is safer.

What would not amaze those settlers are the people who now call Waco home. The early settlers would see in the 21st century Wacoan a strength handed down through the generations—a strength reinforced by faith and family. What is clear to me is that the settlers of yesterday and Wacoans of today share traits that will hold the future citizens in good stead for the next 150 years. Those traits include a devotion to family and faith, a willingness to work, a strong streak of independence and an ingenuity and doggedness to overcome any obstacle.

I ask members to join me in congratulating the people of Waco on 150 years. I also want to extend my best wishes and every wish for success to Waco—a city with a proud past and a promising future.

HONORING THE 1998 FAIRFAX CENTRAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
PUBLIC SAFETY AWARD WINNERS**HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure today to rise and bring to the attention of my colleagues some very special Public Safety personnel in Fairfax City in the Eleventh Congressional District of Virginia. Every year the Fairfax Central Chamber of Commerce honors police officers, fire fighters, and dispatchers who have shown the highest level of dedication to their noble duties. These individuals who are role models to others in their profession will be honored this afternoon at the 1998 Public Safety Awards Luncheon.

The 1998 awards recipients are:

Career Firefighter of the Year: Technician John C. Henderson: Technician Henderson is being recognized with this prestigious award for his continued exemplary commitment to the accomplishment of Department goals and objectives. Technician Henderson's performance is characterized by unselfishness, teamwork, commitment to the improvement of City services, and support of the Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department (FVFD). Most notable among Technician Henderson's performance indicators for 1998 is his involvement with training new members of the Department. Technician Henderson spent many hours working with new employees and new members of the FVFD to ensure that they possessed the skills necessary to perform essential tasks in a safe and effective manner.

Volunteer Fire Fighter/Paramedic of the Year: Fire Fighter Tara Duffy: Fire Fighter Duffy is recognized for this award due to her involvement and attributes in a number of areas; including training, physical fitness, emergency scene conduct, attitude, and riding time. During the Fall 1998, when the Department was acclimating four new employees and working to certify them for minimum staffing roles, Fire Fighter Duffy used a week of vacation time to assist with this essential activity. Additionally, she spent many hours assisting several new volunteer members of the Department with gaining their Fire Fighter I and II certification. Fire Fighter Duffy also sacrificed her regular compensation and free time to be part of the Department contingency that was deployed to Ormond Beach, Florida this past summer to assist with fighting wildland fires.

Police Officer of the Year: PFC Carl R. Pardini: During 1998, K-9 Officer, PFC Pardini was recognized on numerous occasions for his outstanding performance of duty and initiatives in developing a more coordinated K-9 unit. An example of his outstanding performance involving a very difficult K-9 case occurred on March 9, 1998. This case was particularly difficult due to the rainy weather conditions, which affects the tracking ability, and the location of the suspect's hideaway. In order to have a more coordinated and effective K-9 unit, he drafted a canine operating procedure and developed a record system for documentation of all formal and informal canine training.

Dispatcher of the Year: Dispatcher Betty I. Powers: During 1998, Dispatcher Powers was

commended more than once for her high level of professionalism and expertise while working in the Communication's Section. In particular, this recommendation was based on her professional handling of three serious felony incidents, two of which occurred almost simultaneously. Throughout all of these incidents, Dispatch Powers was working alone and unassisted.

I am deeply impressed by the caliber of services that these fine public servants provide with admirable distinction. It takes a special calling and extraordinary commitment to choose public service as your life's work. I congratulate each award winner for their momentous recognition and extend my gratitude to you for your selfless dedication to the safety and well-being of the citizens of Fairfax City.

RECOGNITION OF HARMONY FIRE
DEPARTMENT'S 75 YEARS OF
SERVICE**HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the volunteer fire department of Harmony, Rhode Island on the occasion of its 75th anniversary.

Founded in 1924, the Harmony Fire Department has provided an invaluable service to the citizens of the Harmony area. For three-quarters of a century, the dedicated volunteers have risked their lives for the sake of their neighbors. These men and women, the firefighters and emergency medical technicians of the force, donate their own time and resources for the community good. When the alarm bell rings, or, more appropriate to modern living, when the pager beeps, the volunteers leave the comfort of their homes and families, forgetting their own problems and concerns, with one singular goal in mind: helping others in need. Whether this service comes in the form of fighting fires, saving lives or providing comfort to the distressed, the Harmony volunteers always give to their fullest extent. In recent years, the demands on the department have steadily increased, straining the limited resources of the force. Nonetheless, the volunteers have risen to the occasion, redoubling their efforts and meeting new challenges.

Generally the goal of firefighters is to maintain the order and stability of the community around them. The Harmony force has taken its involvement one step further by providing a special service to the area. In preparation for the 75th anniversary celebration, the 28 volunteers have joined with other community members to compile a pictorial history of the Harmony Fire Department. By collecting pictures of the organization's past, the citizens of Harmony will be able to relive special moments and events in their collective history, thus fostering a better sense of community among them.

I laud the volunteering spirit of the Harmony Fire Department members as well as their understanding of community spirit. The bravery and steadfastness of the volunteers are greatly appreciated by both the residents of Harmony and myself. I congratulate them on 75 years of dedicated service and wish them many more years of success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GENE TAYLOR

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, on February 11, as a result of a hostage crisis that took place in my congressional district which required my direct intercession, I missed the final vote of the day, rollcall vote 21. After several hours of tense negotiations and through the fine work of the local, state and federal law enforcement officials, I am pleased to report that the hostages were all rescued without any loss of life or injury. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 21.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, earlier today, February 22, 1999, I missed rollcall votes 22 and 23. Today, I received a briefing from the Vice Commander of United States Southern Command that ran longer than expected. As a result, my departure from the Headquarters of the U.S. Southern Command in Miami was delayed. I unfortunately did not arrive back in Washington in time to vote on the two suspension bills, H.R. 193 and H.R. 171. Had I been present at the time the votes were called, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 22 and "yea" on rollcall 23. I would like to request unanimous consent to enter my statement into the RECORD at the appropriate location.

THE IMPORTED FOOD SAFETY ACT
OF 1999**HON. JOHN D. DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, almost a year ago a number of my colleagues and I introduced legislation aimed at improving the safety of the imported food consumed by Americans. The Congress failed to act. Regrettably, consumers continue to become sick, and in too many cases die, from eating contaminated food. These tragedies are avoidable. We have the means to arm FDA with sufficient authority and resources to protect our food supply. There are exciting advances in technology that may make tests for microbial and pesticide contamination easy to perform and affordable.

The bill we are introducing today is virtually the same as the one we introduced last year. To its critics, including many of my colleagues in the majority, I say, let us see your proposals. Let's do the people's business and improve the safety of our food supply. I challenge the majority to at least hold a hearing on the subject of food safety. Let's hear from consumers, public health experts, and all others with an interest in this matter. I am confident that none will dare defend the status quo.

The General Accounting Office (GAO) has reported that as many as 81 cases of foodborne illness occur each year. Perhaps as many as 9,100 of these cases result in death. Under our current food import program there is virtually no preventive testing. Food shows up on the dock. Less than one percent of fresh fruit and vegetable are tested. The tests take a week or more to yield results. In the meantime the food is long gone, by then con-

sumed. Let me repeat that point. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) too often waits for consumers to get sick or die before it tries to determine whether the food supply contains pathogenic contaminants. The outrageous and wholly intolerable conclusion one must draw is that American consumers are being used as guinea pigs.

There are special problems with imports. FDA lack authority and resources to "trace back" the source of food borne illness beyond the border. Furthermore, imported food inspected by FDA fails to meet certain government health standards nearly three times more often than domestically produced food. Any preventive detection FDA might attempt would be futile, because FDA lacks adequate tests to detect pathogens on imported food in a timely manner. Finally, FDA cannot even account for what happens to imported fruits and vegetables that are adulterated.

The Imported Food Safety Act of 1999 is critically important from a public health standpoint. It is also consistent with the international trade obligations of the United States. The World Trade Organization's Agreement on the Applications of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures reaffirmed that health and safety considerations take priority over trade. Member countries may, for justifiable health and safety reasons, impose more stringent requirements on imported products such as food than they require of domestic goods. This legislation is consistent with this exception.

Imports now account for approximately 38 percent of all the fruit and 12 percent of all the vegetables Americans consume each year. The volume of food imported into the U.S. has almost doubled over the last 5 years, yet the frequency of FDA inspections has declined sharply during the same period of time. FDA acknowledges that it is "in danger of being overwhelmed by the volume of products reaching U.S. ports."

Even if FDA could perform more inspections, FDA does not have the tests it needs to detect E. coli, salmonella, and other pathogens in imported fruits and vegetables. As recently as 1997, all of the microbiological samples that FDA collected and tested were in response to foodborne illness. None were for preventive detection. There has been little improvement since then.

GAO has studied this situation and has concluded that the federal government cannot ensure that imported foods are safe. In response to this crisis, the President has said FDA needs increased resources, more authority, and improved research and technology. The Imported Food Safety Act of 1999 addresses each of these points. The legislation provides additional resources in the form of a modest user fee on imported foods, and a "Manhattan Project" to develop "real time" tests that yield results within 60 minutes to detect E. coli, salmonella, and other microbial and pesticide contaminants in food. Finally, the legislation gives FDA authority, comparable to that of the U.S. Department of Agriculture with respect to imported poultry and meat, to stop unsafe food at the border and to assure that its ultimate disposition is not America's dinner table.

I would also note that the FY 2000 budget for the President's food safety initiative contains a modest funding increase over previous funding levels. Even under the most optimistic funding and allocation scenarios, the amount requested is inadequate to meet the resources

needed to ensure that Americans have healthy food on their dinner table.

A TRIBUTE FOR FORMER MICHIGAN ATTORNEY GENERAL
FRANK KELLEY**HON. BART STUPAK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, a distinguished public servant recently stepped down from a lifetime working on behalf of the people of Michigan. In fact, Mr. Speaker, when one considers the fact that Frank Kelley served 37 years as Michigan's attorney general, one might almost say it was two lifetimes worth of work, not one, that Kelley spent in his effort to bring economic and environmental justice to the lives of the working men and women of Michigan.

A Democrat, Frank Kelley served with five Michigan governors, Republicans George Romney, Bill Milliken and John Engler, and fellow Democrats John Swainson, who originally appointed Kelley to fill a vacancy, and Jim Blanchard, who gave him the nickname the Eternal General.

Let me quote from a Detroit Free Press editorial of December 27, which spotlighted the fighting spirit of Frank Kelley and summed up—if such a summation is really possible—the 37-year career of this law enforcement legend.

"Kelley likes to say that he was a consumer champion before anyone heard of Ralph Nader, and that he had an environmental division, 'when most people didn't know whether it was spelled with an e or an i.' He regularly went after Michigan utilities in rate-hike cases like a pit bull after sirlin."

"He was outraged by charities that pocketed more money than they spent on good works, by retailers whose price at the scanner didn't match the price on the shelf, and by all the quick-buck ways unscrupulous and uncaring promoters could scam the poor and the unwary."

"He understood that the small ways in which people are cheated, stifled, disappointed and betrayed add up to something big and corrosive. He knew that by protecting the common folk against such frauds, maybe you could keep people believing in the possibilities of justice and good government."

That is a powerful theme for a life's work, Mr. Speaker. We can glimpse in a few words a man who understood the deceptions that can be perpetrated on the elderly in their homes with fraudulent mailings or on housewives in grocery stores, and he claimed that consumer fraud cost Michigan residents more money than other crime.

Public service certainly isn't over for Frank Kelley. He has already joined a new law firm in Lansing, that of Kelley, Cawthorne and Ralls, and he has been appointed by Governor John Engler to a post on the Mackinac Island State Park Commission.

This 103-year-old civic body oversees the park land and the historic attractions on Mackinac Island, which make up about 83 percent of the island. The commission also oversees Colonial Michilimackinac in nearby Mackinaw City and Historic Mill Creek near Cheboygan on the Lake Huron shore.

Frank Kelley's love for this beautiful island is made clear by the fact that he has already purchased his burial site there, right next to the burial site of the late Sen. Phil Hart and across the road from the grave of the late Gov. G. Mennen "Soapy" Williams.

But that's in the future as far as a re-energized Frank Kelley, fresh from heart bypass surgery, is concerned. Right now there is new work, new challenges, in fact, new careers.

Whatever he undertakes, it's certain the people of Michigan will benefit from his endeavors.

I am proud to call him a friend, a constituent, a mentor and—most of all—the "Eternal General."

AN UNCOMMON HERO

HON. CHRIS CANNON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, many individuals have been recognized for their courage and valor during war time, but it is not often that individuals are remembered for their compassion and generosity under the same circumstances. As part of the ongoing celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Berlin Airlift, I rise today to honor just such a generous man. I am proud to be able to say that he is a constituent of mine, living in Provo, in the Third District of Utah which I represent.

United States Air Force Col. Gail S. Halvorsen was one of many who participated in the joint American and British effort to deliver relief to the people stranded in Berlin after World War II. In total, over 277,000 drops were made and 2.3 million tons of relief supplies were delivered. Col. Halvorsen's contribution, however, did more than feed empty stomachs. It fed empty souls as well.

One morning, (then) Lieutenant Halvorsen was talking with a group of children gathered to watch the planes take off near the Tempelhof Airport in West Berlin. When it was time for him to leave, he realized how long it must have been since these children had enjoyed something sweet, like a piece of gum or candy. He reached into his pocket and produced two sticks of gum, which he gave to the children. Soon Lieut. Halvorsen began dropping small bags of candy, for all the children, over Berlin, attached to white handkerchiefs designed to act as parachutes.

Soon, this small gesture was adopted by the military, and became known as Operation Little Vittles. Shortly thereafter, Lieut. Halvorsen appeared on television to promote the effort, and then thousands of candy donations poured into the program from all over America, as generous families gave to the cause. Col. Halvorsen's effort is universally recognized as one of the keys to the success of the Berlin Airlift, one of America's greatest humanitarian efforts.

Often we read the newspaper or watch the television and question if there are any heroes left; people we truly want to imitate. By honoring Col. Gail Halvorsen today, we are reminded that there surely are still heroes in our midst.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF KING HUSSEIN IBN TALAL AL-HASHEM

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL LUTHER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 10, 1999

Mr. LUTHER. Mr. Speaker, King Hussein's death marks the passing of a truly visionary leader. His reasoned, thoughtful approach toward achieving Middle East peace inspired all of us. We Minnesotans are especially honored that the King received the best possible care in the world from our wonderful Mayo Medical Center. Our deepest sympathies to the family of the King, and all of the people of Jordan and the world.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER MICHIGAN STATE REPRESENTATIVE PAT GAGLIARDI

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute today to Pat Gagliardi, a former representative to the Michigan House of Representatives from the 107th Representative District, which is comprised of four counties in my congressional district.

First elected to the House in 1982, Pat Gagliardi has just concluded his service in that body because of the Michigan term limits law. This law was enacted at the will of the voters of Michigan, but I have to confess that in this case I believe the law has turned an excellent public servant out of office.

The only downside of Pat's political career was his misfortune in being stuck with the nickname "Gags." He was respected by his fellow legislators, Democrats and Republicans alike. He kept in touch with his constituents and he served them well. He was of great assistance to me when I was elected to the Michigan House in 1988, and he has been of great assistance to me in our respective offices in Lansing and Washington.

In his role as Majority Floor Leader, Pat helped set the legislative agenda for Michigan in the House, and as a northern Michigan representative he fought tirelessly to make sure that his district received its fair share of funding.

Throughout our careers, I have never failed to remind Pat that his hair was getting thinner, just as he has never failed to remind me that mine was getting grayer. I will always remember this banter as a symbol of our friendly cooperation, as we worked together on issues of national importance.

Much of our legislative cooperation focused on issues relating to the Great Lakes. Just as my district touches three of the five Great Lakes—Lake Michigan, Lake Huron and Lake Superior—so too did Pat's district touch the same three bodies of water.

This meant that issues vital to United States commerce, such as the Soo Locks, and issues of national heritage, such as Great Lakes shipwrecks, were likely to bring Pat and I, representing northern Michigan in the Michigan House and the U.S. House, into lockstep.

This cooperation bore fruit. For example, in 1995, when a Michigan diver and entrepreneur announced he would market videos of the most famous shipwreck, the *Edmund Fitzgerald*, and when we learned that those tapes would contain footage of the bodies of seamen who died in that tragedy, Pat joined me in expressing outrage on behalf of the families still trying to reconcile themselves to the loss of their loved ones.

When my legislation banning this kind of videotaping stalled in Washington, it was Pat Gagliardi who won approval for such legislation in the Michigan legislature.

He is and has been a friend, a mentor, a fellow legislator and a Democratic Party leader. He has my deep respect and friendship.

The people of Michigan were well-served by "Gags." They will miss him. I will miss him.

HONORING DEBORAH JEAN TRUDEAU

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a woman who has dedicated herself to her craft and to educating others. On November 19, 1998, Mrs. Deborah Jean Trudeau was honored as family, friends, and colleagues gather to celebrate her receiving the American Culinary Federation National Chef Professionalism Award.

Deborah Jean Trudeau received baccalaureate and post baccalaureate degrees from Ferris State University, as well as a degree in Applied Science from Macomb Community College. Over the years, she honed her skills as a baker, lab technician, and restaurant manager, among others. In 1989, Deborah was appointed Lead Instructor and Coordinator of the culinary arts program at the northwest campus of the Oakland Technical Center, located in Clarkston, Michigan.

A self-described "jack of all culinary trades," Deborah has also excelled as an educator. She has worked with a variety of students, ranging from high school seniors to senior citizens, assisting them in food preparation, bakery, and front-of-house training. She has made great strides in enhancing her students' education through the use of guest speakers, demonstrations, and student competitions, of which her students are regularly found among the list of winners.

A member of the American Culinary Federation's Flint/Saginaw Chapter and its Central Region, Deborah has previously been recognized as her chapter's Chef of the Year. Her recent award is very special because she is the first from the region to receive the Chef Professionalism Award, and the first woman ever to receive the award.

As a national award recipient, Deborah has received an honorarium, which she used to create scholarships at Oakland and Macomb Community Colleges, institutions she credits with providing invaluable support.

Mr. Speaker, Deborah Jean Trudeau's colleagues and students have placed her in very high regard, describing her as an exemplary educator, instructor, and counselor. Due to her teachings, many establishments throughout my district have staffs of exceptional quality.

As a former teacher, I am very appreciative of her commitment to her students and to the community. I ask my colleagues in the 106th Congress to join me in acknowledging the accomplishments of Deborah Jean Trudeau.

TRIBUTE TO DR. GERRY HOUSE,
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS, NA-
TIONAL SUPERINTENDENT OF
THE YEAR

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Superintendent of Memphis City Schools, Dr. N. Gerry House.

On February 19, 1999, Dr. House was named the National Superintendent of the Year by the American Association of School Administrators. Dr. House's commitment to education placed her at the top of a distinguished list of national superintendent finalists, a list which also included nominees from Brazil and Germany. I might add that Dr. House is the first African-American woman to receive this prestigious award.

Dr. House's success may be attributed to many factors: hard work, perseverance and leadership skills. But perhaps most instrumental to her success is Dr. House's dedication to education reform. As Daniel Domenech, the President of the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) stated: "America needs leaders who will guide our schools into the next millennium—strong visionaries who will help shape the future of generations to come." Dr. House has that vision.

Under the leadership of Dr. House, Memphis has received a substantial grant from the National Science Foundation; a \$3.6 million grant for after-school learning centers in eight schools; and was selected as one of 11 districts to implement the new American Schools redesign models. A recent study of the first 25 schools to undergo school wide reform found that the reform schools boasted a 7.5% greater achievement gain on state standardized tests than students nationwide, and 14.5% more than comparable Memphis City Schools. These outstanding results serve as a testimony to Dr. House's vision and commitment to education.

Dr. House serves on various national and state educational improvement boards, including the executive board of the Council of the Great City Schools, the Board of Directors of NEA's National Foundation for the Improvement of Education, and the National Science Foundation's Directorate for Education and Human Resources.

America needs more leaders like Dr. House, men and women committed to academic excellence. Please join me in honoring Dr. House and all of the other educational leaders in the country for their commitment to improving education for all Americans.

24TH ANNUAL CAPITAL PRIDE
FESTIVAL, JUNE 5-13, 1999

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the 24th Annual Capital Pride Festival, a celebration of and for the National Capital Area's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered communities and their friends.

Since its inception in 1975, the Capital Pride Festival has grown from a small block party into a 9-day series of events which culminate in a downtown parade and Pennsylvania Avenue street fair on Sunday, June 13th. Last year over 3,000 people marched in the parade and participated as exhibitors, entertainers, or volunteers at the street fair. More than 175,000 people attended this annual celebration.

It has been 35 years since the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and gays and lesbians are still not covered by its protections. We must fight to make sure that not another 35 years or 10 years or even 1 year more passes without this Nation recognizing sexual orientation as a protected class in the United States. Congress must pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), and I will do my best to make sure that it is passed in this Congress.

This year, the Capital Pride Festival organizers and sponsors, the Whiteman-Walker Clinic and One-in-Ten, have selected "Unite, Celebrate, Remember" for the Festival's theme. Let's take that theme to heart and unite to achieve our goal of eliminating discrimination based on sexual orientation, celebrate our accomplishments, and remember those, like Matthew Shepherd, who we have lost because hatred and discrimination against gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgendered Americans still exist.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in saluting the 24th Annual Capital Pride Festival, its organizers, and the volunteers who make it possible.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER MICHIGAN
STATE REPRESENTATIVE DAVID
ANTHONY

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute today to Dave Anthony, a former representative to the Michigan House of Representatives from the 108th Representative District, which is comprised of three counties in my congressional district.

First elected to the House in 1990, Dave Anthony has just concluded his service in that body because of the Michigan term limits law. This law was enacted at the will of the voters of Michigan, but I have to confess that in this case I believe the law has turned an excellent public servant out of office.

Dave succeeded me in the 108th District seat, and he has represented both the community where I grew up and the community where I and my family now live. Dave and I

have always enjoyed a special relationship personally and professionally.

Whether the issue was timber or roads, Dave was always ready to jump into the political and legislative arena, and he was a tireless worker for the "Yoopers," those special residents of Michigan that live in the state's Upper Peninsula, the U.P.

Dave's experience in politics and in constituent service was shaped by his work as the Upper Peninsula representative of Sen. CARL LEVIN. It should be clear from my remarks, Mr. Speaker, that Dave Anthony has spent much of his adult life in public service.

Because I made the same trip so many times, I know how many long hours Dave had to log on Michigan highways, not just holding office hours within his district but also in the drive between his home community of Escanaba and the state capital of Lansing.

This seven-hour sojourn served as an excellent metaphor for the physical isolation of the Upper Peninsula from the state house, and it made clear the special burden of U.P. legislators in speaking on behalf of a region that many House colleagues knew only in news stories and travel brochures.

Dave, usually accompanied by his children—son Robbie and daughter Courtney—always "light up" political or legislative events. This summer Susie will be added to the Anthony family and will contribute mightily to the fine reputation of public service the Anthony family has given to us "Yoopers."

I will miss working with Dave, and the residents of northern Michigan will miss him. Dave will have a little extra time now for his favorite pastime—fly fishing—but, with his experience and commitment, I believe the people of Michigan haven't heard the last of Dave Anthony.

HONORING CHARLES MELTON

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to rise before you today to pay tribute to a loyal friend and a tireless advocate of America's workers, who was taken from this Earth too soon. On Thursday, February 25, members and friends of Local 653 of the United Automobile, Aerospace, and Agricultural Implement Workers of America have decided to go forth with their plans to honor the accomplishments of Mr. Charles J. Melton of Pontiac, Michigan, who died January 31.

It has been said that "death ends a life, not a relationship," and this is certainly the case with those who have ever come into contact with Charlie Melton and have benefitted from his influence. A lifelong Pontiac resident, Army veteran, and a committed labor activist, Charlie's association with the UAW began in 1952. Within two years, he became a committeeman, and spent the following 30 years serving his fellow colleagues as union representative, benefit representative, vice president, and ultimately president of Local 653. Early on, Charlie had a fervent desire to help people in any way possible and do whatever he could to ensure that a strong, equitable, and positive environment existed in the workplace and throughout the community.

Upon his retirement from General Motors in 1983, after 31 years, Charlie continued to work on behalf of his peers through the Local's Retiree chapter, where he served as chairman for many years. He also served as recording secretary for the UAW Region 1 Retirees Council. He was always found within the halls of the union planning everything from meetings to fishing trips.

Charlie's ability to make a difference was a trait shared by his wonderful wife, Bonnie, and

they both instilled these values in their son, Tim. One of Charlie's greatest joys was to recently see his son elected as the youngest member ever of Oakland County's Board of Commissioners. The strides that Tim will make as he begins his career as a public servant will serve to continue the legacy of his father.

Mr. Speaker, Charles J. Melton was not just a constituent, but a very good friend. It is with a heavy heart that I stand before you today, however it is also with great pride that I do so.

It is people like Charlie, who make it their life's work to improve the quality and dignity of life for us all that continue to inspire us to greater efforts. I, along with Charlie's family, and his UAW extended family will truly miss him a great deal. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of a great man.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, February 25, 1999 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 1

- 8:30 a.m.
YEAR 2000 TECHNOLOGY PROBLEM
To hold hearings on certain Year 2000 issues.
Room to be announced
- 10 a.m.
Judiciary
To hold hearings on proposed legislation relating to Year 2000 computer problems.
SD-226
- 1 p.m.
Aging
To hold hearings to examine the impact of the President's Social Security reform proposal on the income of American workers and retirees.
SD-628

MARCH 2

- 9:30 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to review the legislative recommendations of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.
345 Cannon Building
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings on medical theory and practice issues.
SD-430
- Energy and Natural Resources
To hold oversight hearings on the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2000 for the Department of the Interior.
SD-366
- Appropriations
Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2000 for the Department of Agriculture.
SD-138

- 10 a.m.
Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings on the nomination of Gary S. Guzy, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.
SD-406

- 2 p.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for the Surface Transportation Board, Department of Transportation.
SR-253

- 3 p.m.
Foreign Relations
Western Hemisphere, Peace Corps, Narcotics and Terrorism Subcommittee
To hold hearings on United States relief efforts in response to Hurricane Mitch.
SD-419

MARCH 3

- 9 a.m.
Environment and Public Works
Fisheries, Wildlife, and Drinking Water Subcommittee
To hold oversight hearings on the Environmental Protection Agency's implementation of the 1996 amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act.
SD-406
- 9:30 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Business meeting to markup pending calendar business.
SR-253
- Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Aging Subcommittee
To hold oversight hearings on the implementation of the Older Americans Act.
SD-430
- Indian Affairs
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold joint hearings on American Indian trust management practices in the Department of the Interior.
SD-366

- 10 a.m.
Budget
To hold hearings on the President's proposed budget for fiscal year 2000.
SD-608
- Armed Services
Personnel Subcommittee
To continue hearings on the Department of Defense recommendations pertaining to military retirement, pay and compensations they relate to the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2000 and the Future Years Defense Program and S.4, to improve pay and retirement equity for members of the Armed Forces (pending on Senate calendar).
SR-222

- 2 p.m.
Foreign Relations
International Economic Policy, Export and Trade Promotion Subcommittee
To hold hearings on the commercial viability of a Caspian Sea export energy pipeline.
SD-419
- Energy and Natural Resources
Water and Power Subcommittee
To hold hearings on the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2000 for the Bureau of Reclamation, Department of the Interior, and the Power Marketing Administrations, Department of Energy.
SD-366

MARCH 4

- 9:30 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to review the legislative recommendations of the Veterans of World War I of the

USA, Non-Commissioned Officers Association, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Jewish War Veterans, and the Blinded Veterans Association.

345 Cannon Building
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings on internet filtering.
SR-253

- 10 a.m.
Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings on proposed budget reform measures.
SD-342

MARCH 8

- 9:30 a.m.
Governmental Affairs
Investigations Subcommittee
To hold hearings on S.335, to amend chapter 30 of title 39, United States Code, to provide for the nonmailability of certain deceptive matter relating to games of chance, administrative procedures, orders, and civil penalties relating to such matter.
SD-342

MARCH 9

- 9:30 a.m.
Governmental Affairs
Investigations Subcommittee
To hold hearings on S.335, to amend chapter 30 of title 39, United States Code, to provide for the nonmailability of certain deceptive matter relating to games of chance, administrative procedures, orders, and civil penalties relating to such matter.
SD-342

MARCH 10

- 9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee
To hold hearings on the condition of the services' infrastructure and real property maintenance programs for fiscal year 2000.
SR-222
- Armed Services
Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee
To hold hearings on the condition of the service's infrastructure and real property maintenance programs for fiscal year 2000.
SR-236

MARCH 11

- 2 p.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee
To hold oversight hearings on the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2000 for the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture.
SD-628

MARCH 16

- 2 p.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee
To resume oversight hearings on the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2000 for the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture.
SD-366

MARCH 17

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to review the legislative recommendations of the Disabled American Veterans.

345 Cannon Building

MARCH 24

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to review the legislative recommendations of the American Ex-Prisoners of War, AMVETS, Vietnam Veterans of America, and the Retired Officers Association.

345 Cannon Building

SEPTEMBER 28

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to review the legislative recommendations of the American Legion.

345 Cannon Building